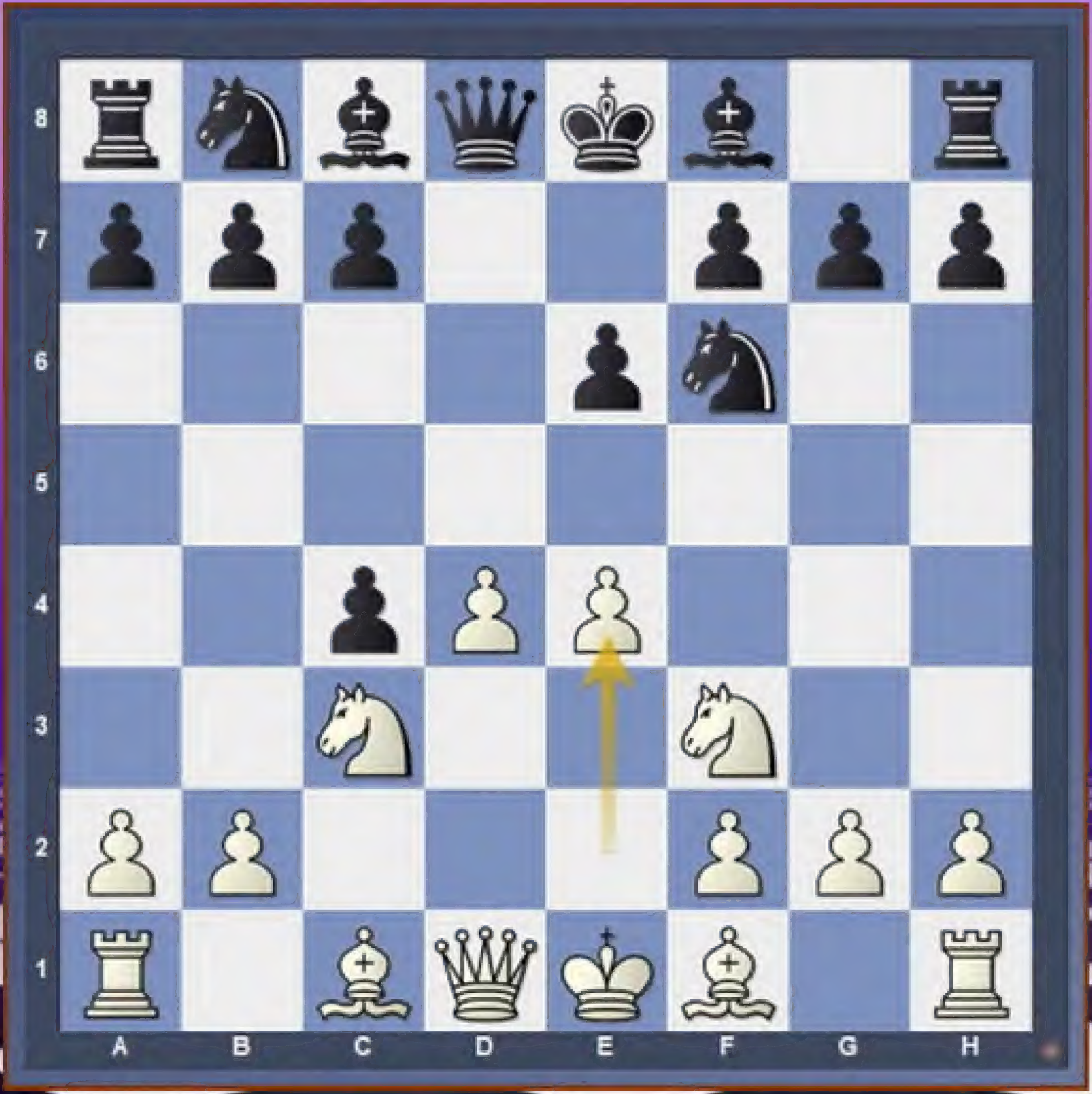
# CHESS NOTES VOL.2
# 2025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# Ideas in the QGD Vienna Var

**D37**
□ **Nihal,Sarin 2676**
■ **Carlsen,M. 2831**
Tata Steel India Rapid (2) 13.11.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** And now 0-0 would win. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxa7N**

[ 11.Rd1 Bd7 12.Bg5 Be7 13.Qxa7 Ra8 14.Qb7 Rb8 15.Qa7 Ra8 16.Qb7 Rb8 17.Qa7 ½-½ Karjakin,S (2757)-Duda,J (2729) FIDE World Cup chess24.com 2021 (64.1) ]

[ 11.Qxc6+ Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Bxd7 13.Bg5 0-0 14.Rfc1 Ba5 15.Rab1 Rfd8 16.Bb3 Bc6 17.Rd1 Rd7 18.Rbc1 h6 19.Be3 Bb6 20.h3 Rbd8 21.Ne2 Bb5 22.Nc3 c6 23.a4 Ba6 24.Na2 Bb7 25.Nb4 Rd6 0-1 Aronian,L (2807)-Anand,V (2817) Moscow Botvinnik Memorial rapid 2011 (2) 26.Nd3 Bxd4 27.Bf4 R6d7 28.Ne5 Bxe5 29.Bxe5 Nd5 30.a5 f6 31.Bg3 Kf7 32.Re1 Rc8 33.Bc4 a6 34.Rcd1 g5 35.Be2 c5 36.Bh5+ Ke7 37.Rxe6+ Kxe6 38.Re1+ Kf5 39.Bh2 g4 40.Bxg4+ Kg6 1-0 Boettcher,P (2580)-Louvrier Saint Mary,J (2670) Chapter 1 (2) Game 3 (3) ]

**11...Bd7! 12.Qa4 c5 13.Qd1 cxd4 14.Qxd4 Bc6 15.Be3 Bd6 16.b3 0-0 17.Rad1 Nd7 18.h3 Ne5 19.Be2 Qf6** White must now prevent ...Bc6xg2! **20.f4** -0.77/21

[ 20.Ne4= 0.08/21 remains equal. Qg6 21.f3 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 ]

**20...Rb4!∓ 21.Qd2**

[ 21.fxe5 Qg6 22.Rf2 Rxd4 23.Bxd4 Bb4∓ ]

**21...Ng6 22.Bf3 Bxf3 23.Rxf3 Nh4**

[ 23...Bxf4? 24.Nd5 exd5 25.Qxb4 Bxe3+ 26.Rxe3+- ]

[ 23...Nxf4?! 24.a3 Rxb3 25.Bxf4 *( 25.Ne4? Qg6-+ )* 25...Bxf4 *( 25...Bxa3? 26.Ne4+- )* 26.Ne4 Rxf3 27.Nxf6+ gxf6 28.Qb4 Be3+ *( 28...c5 29.Qe4= )* 29.Kh1= ]

**24.Rff1 Nf5 25.Ne2 h5** -0.62/21

[ 25...Nxe3∓ -1.02/23 26.Qxe3 Ra8 ]

**26.Bf2∓ h4 27.Rc1 Ra8 28.Rc2** -0.99/21

[ 28.Rfd1∓ -0.62/21 ]

**28...Ra5 29.Qd3 Rd5 30.Qf3 Qd8 31.Rfc1 Rb8** -0.17/20

[Better is 31...Qa8∓ -0.89/20 32.Rd2 Qa6 ]

**32.Nc3= Nd4 33.Qg4 Nxc2 34.Nxd5 exd5 35.Rxc2 Rb4 36.Bxh4 Qe8 37.Re2 Re4 38.Bf6 Bf8 39.Rxe4 Qxe4** Endgame. KQB-KQB **40.Be5 d4** ...d4-d3 would now be deadly. **41.Qf3**

[ 41.Bxc7? perishes. Qc2 42.Bb6 d3-+ ]

**41...Qb1+ 42.Qf1 Qxa2 43.Bxd4 c5 44.Bc3 Qxb3 45.Qd3 Be7 46.Qf3 c4 47.Qe3 Bf8 48.Qd4 Qb5 49.Kh2 f6 50.Qe4 Kf7 51.Qe2 Qd5** Black wants to play ...Qd5-d3. **52.Kg3 Bd6 53.Qf3?** -3.40/26

[ 53.h4= -0.06/23 and White has nothing to worry. ]

**53...Qf5?** -0.26/19

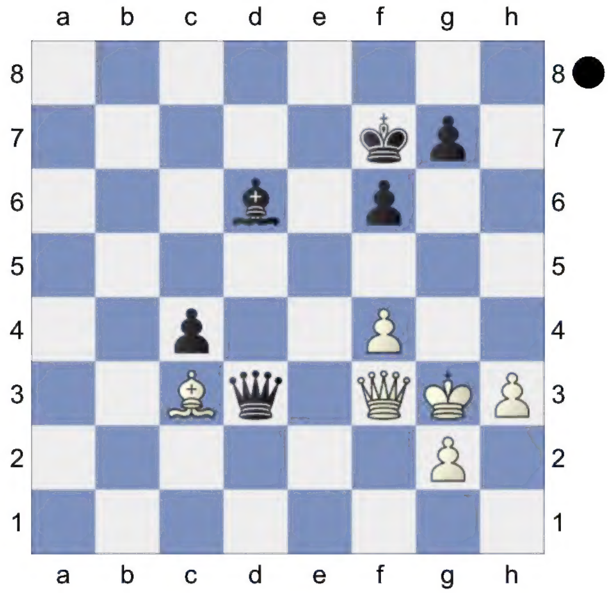
[Black should try 53...Qg5+-+ -3.40/26 54.Kf2 Qxf4 *( 54...Bxf4 55.Qb7+ Kg6 56.Qe4+ Qf5 57.Qxc4∓ )* 55.Qxf4 Bxf4 ]

**54.Qg4?** -2.22/24

[ 54.Bd2= -0.26/19 ]

**54...Qd3+!-+ 55.Qf3**

(Diagram)



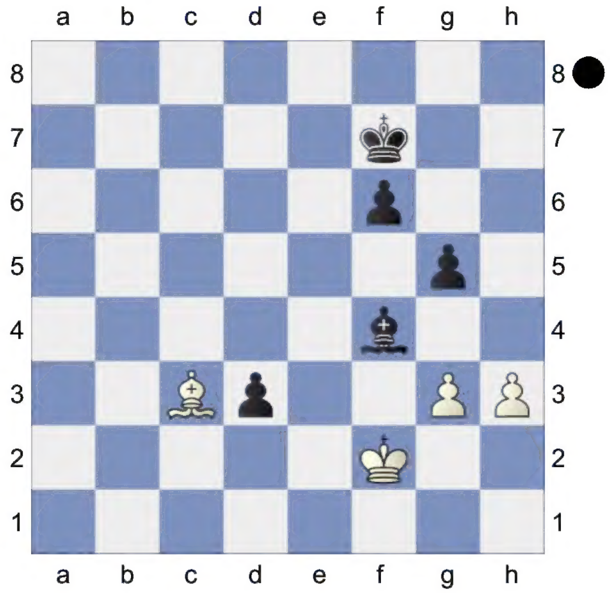
**g5! 56.Kf2 Bxf4** Hoping for ...Qd3xf3+.

[ Worse is 56...gxf4 57.Qxd3 cxd3 58.Ke1= ]

**57.Qxd3** -4.44/15

[ 57.Be1 -1.75/20 ]

**57...cxd3** KB-KB **58.g3**



**Be5** -0.03/37

[ 58...Bc1!-+ -2.15/36 Threatens to win with ...f6-f5. 59.Ke1 Ke6 ]

**59.Bd2** The position is equal. **59...Kg6 60.Kf3 f5 61.Ke3 f4+ 62.Kxd3 fxg3 63.Ke2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.20 (precise)

**½-½**

**D39**

☐ **Martirosyan,Haik M 2667**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof 2733**

FIDE World Bl Team Final blitz (3.2)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 *( 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Bg5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Ne5 Qd6 12.Rfe1 Nd5 13.Bxd5 exd5 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 15.Qxc6 bxc6 16.Bf4 Bf5 17.Bxc7 Rfe8 18.f3 f6 19.Kf2 Kf7 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Re1 Rxe1 22.Kxe1* ½-½ (31) Mamedyarov,S (2817)-Duda, J (2738) Tata Steel-A 81st 2019 (9)*)* 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 *( 9.Re1 Nd7 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 Bf6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Qh5 Bd7 14.Re3 g6 15.Qe2 c5 16.dxc5 Qa5 17.Qf3 Bg7 18.Qxb7 Qxc5 19.Ba3 Qxc4 20.Qxd7 Rfd8 21.Qb7 Qxa2 22.Ree1 Qc4 23.Bb4 Bxc3* 0-1 (26) Herman,J (2190)-Donchenko, A (2588) Vandoeuvre op 12th 2015 (1) *)* 9...0-0 10.Re1 Nc6 11.Qg4 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 15.Ree1 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 Bxe6 19.Rxe6 Rac8 20.Rxd6 Rxc3 ½-½ (32) Van Foreest,J (2690)-Lu,S (2605) WchT Pool-A 13th rapid 2022 (4.2) ]

[ 6.e5 Nd5 7.Bd2 Nb6 8.Qc2 Nc6 9.Qe4 Ne7 10.Be2 Bd7 11.0-0 Bc6 12.Qg4 Nf5 13.Rfd1 Be7 14.Be3

Nd5 15.Bd2 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bd5 17.a4 a5 18.Be1 h5 19.Qh3 g5 20.Nd2 Nh4 0-1 (33) Wang,Y (2434)-Xu,J (2591) CHN-chT 2nd Chiva 2006 (2) ]

**6...b5 7.a4**

[ 7.e5!? ]

**7...c5!** outshines the older 7...c6. erfolgreicher als das alte 7...c6. **8.axb5** e5 is the strong threat. **8...cxd4 9.Nxd4** Threatens to win with e5. White is slightly better. **9...h6 10.Be3 Nxe4 11.Rc1**

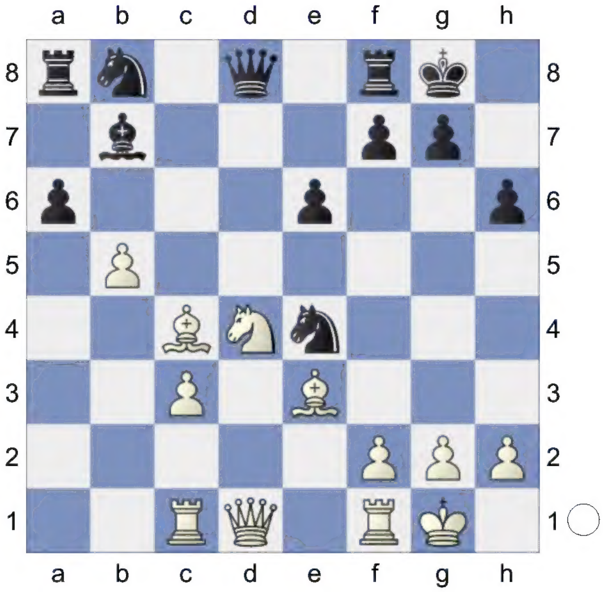
[ 11.Bxc4? Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bxc3+ 13.Ke2 Bxa1 14.Qxa1 0-0-+ ]

**11...Bb7N** 0.79/19

[Vorgänger: 11...e5 12.Nf3! Qxd1+ 13.Kxd1 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nd7 15.Bxc4 Bb7 Prevents Bd5 16.Nd2 Nb6 aiming for ...Nxd2. 17.Bb3 0-0-0! ½-½ Laghetti,G (2480)-Loeschnauer,R (2458) W-ch42 sf01 email 2018 ]

[ 11...e5± 0.33/21 deserves consideration. 12.Nf3 Qxd1+ 13.Kxd1 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nd7 ]

**12.Bxc4± 0-0 13.0-0** Strongly threatening Nxe4. **13...Bxc3 14.bxc3 a6**



**15.b6! Qc8** 1.60/22

[ ⌓15...Qe7 0.89/18 ]

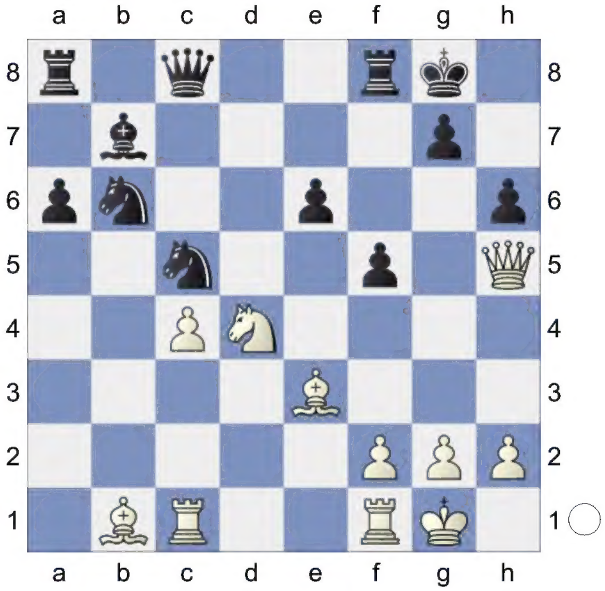
**16.Bd3** 0.90/20

[ ⌓16.Ba2 1.60/22 ]

**16...Nd7 17.c4** Black must now prevent c5! **17...Nec5 18.Bb1 Nxb6 19.Qh5** 0.45/21

[ 19.Bxh6± 0.91/19 White wants to mate with Qg4. f5 ( *19...gxh6? 20.Qg4+ Kh8 21.Qh5+-* ) 20.Be3 ]

**19...f5±**



**20.Bxh6! Qe8! 21.Qg5**

[ 21.Qxe8 simplifies Rfxe8 22.Be3 Rac8 23.f3 ]

**21...Rf7 22.Qg3**

[ 22.Qg6 feels hotter. Rd7 23.Qg3 Nba4 24.Nxf5 exf5 25.Bxf5 Ne4 26.Bxd7 Nxg3 27.Bxe8 Ne2+ 28.Kh1 ]

**22...Rd8** 0.70/19

[Black should try 22...Be4= 0.19/20 ]

**23.Rcd1** 0.00/22

[Better is 23.Be3± 0.70/19 ]

**23...Nxc4= 24.Bg5 Rdd7 25.f3**

[ 25.Qc3!? Bd5□ 26.Nxf5 Rxf5 ( *26...exf5 27.Rxd5* Remove Defender *Rxd5 28.Qxc4=* ) 27.Bxf5 exf5 28.Qb4=

Remove Defender *( 28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.Qxc4 Qe4= )*]

**25...Nb2 26.Rd2 Nc4 27.Rdd1 Nb2 28.Rc1** -2.17/22

[ 28.Rd2!= 0.00/21 and White has nothing to worry. Nc4 29.Rdd1 ]

**28...Nbd3?** -0.03/17

[ 28...Ncd3-+ -2.17/22 29.Ne2 Nxc1 30.Nxc1 Rd1 31.Rxd1 Nxd1 ]

**29.Rc4 e5 30.Ne2** -1.06/19

[ 30.Rxc5 Nxc5 31.Nxf5 Qe6-+ ]

[ 30.Nxf5!= 0.21/22 keeps the balance. Rxf5 31.Rxc5 Rxg5 32.Ba2+ Rf7 33.Qxg5 Nxc5 34.Bxf7+ Qxf7 35.Qxe5 ]

**30...e4↑** Black is on the roll. **31.fxe4** -2.78/19

[ 31.Ba2∓ -1.39/19 keeps fighting. ]

**31...Nxe4-+ 32.Qe3 Ne5 33.Rcc1** -4.25/21

[ ⌓33.Rxe4 -2.98/19 fxe4 *( 33...Bxe4? 34.Nf4-+ )* 34.Bf4 ]

**33...Ng4** A dynamic duo of knights. **34.Qf4 Nxg5** Discovered Attack. Black is clearly winning. **35.Ba2 Qxe2 36.Qg3 Qe3+ 37.Qxe3 Nxe3 38.Bxf7+ Rxf7 39.Rfe1 Nxg2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.60/ Black=0.46

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi 2720**

■ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**

Julius Baer GenCup D2 W rapid (3.3)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3**

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 *( 12...a6 13.Bd3= )* 13.Qxc4 Na5 14.Nxc7+ Kd8∓ ]

**12...Na5 13.Rd1 Bb7 14.0-0 h6 15.Nd2 0-0 16.Nde4N**

[ 16.f4 Nd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Qc3 Rb5 19.Nxc4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxb2 22.d5 exd5 23.Rxd5 Qf5 24.a4 Rfb8 25.Rb5 c5 26.Rxb8+ Rxb8 27.Qd5 Rd8 28.Qc4 Rb8 29.Qd5 Rd8 30.Qc4 a5 ½-½ (61) Mamedyarov,S (2801)-Caruana,F (2822) 6th Sinquefield Cup 2018 (3.2) 31.h3 h5 32.Rc1 Rd3 33.Kf2 Qg6 34.g3 Qf5 35.Rb1 Ra3 36.Rb3 Rxb3 37.Qxb3 Qxh3 38.Qb8+ Kh7 39.Qc7 Qe6 40.Qxa5 h4 41.gxh4 Bxh4+ 42.Ke2 Qc4+ 43.Kd2 Qa2+ 44.Kd1 Qb1+ 45.Ke2 c4 ½-½ (61) Trice,E (2801)-Das,A (2822) cr KOSENKOV MEMORIAL 1998 (3.2) ]

**16...Bxe4 17.Nxe4** Hoping for Bxh6! **17...Qa4 18.Qc1** Threatens to win with Bxh6! **18...Nd5 19.Bd2** White wants to play Bxa5. **19...Rfd8** 1.21/20

[ 19...Nb3= 0.06/21 20.Qxc4 Qxc4 21.Bxc4 Nxd4 ]

**20.Bxa5±** Overworked Piece **20...Qxa5 21.Bxc4 Qb6 22.Rd2 Nf4** 1.72/20

[ 22...Bg5± 1.26/21 23.Nxg5 hxg5 ]

**23.Rfd1+- Qc6 24.f3** 1.12/21

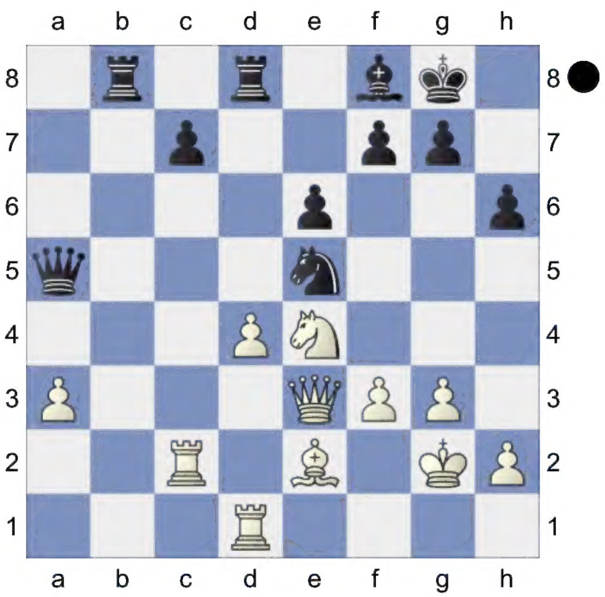
[ 24.Qc2+- 1.79/24 ]

**24...Qb6± 25.g3 Nd5 26.Rc2 Bf8 27.Kg2 Ne7 28.Qf4** -0.20/20 White is more active.

[ 28.Rcd2!± 1.14/23 ]

**28...Ng6!= 29.Qe3 Nxe5** Pin **30.b4 a5 31.bxa5 Qxa5 32.Be2**

(Diagram)



**Ng6**

[ 32...Qxa3? 33.Qxa3 Bxa3 34.dxe5+- ]

**33.Qc3 Qxc3** -0.56/22

[ 33...Qxa3 34.Qxa3 Bxa3 35.Rxc7-+ ]

[ 33...Qa8∓ -0.99/20 34.Nc5 Ne7 ]

**34.Rxc3∓ Ne7 35.Bc4 c6 36.Rd2 Nf5 37.Rcd3 Ra8 38.g4 Ne7 39.Ra2 Ng6 40.Kg3** Wards off Nf4 **40...Ra4 41.Bb3 Rxa3**

[Don't do 41...Raxd4 42.Rxd4 Rxd4 43.a4∓ ]

**42.Rxa3 Bxa3 43.Bxe6?** -3.23/21

[ 43.f4∓ -1.56/19 ]

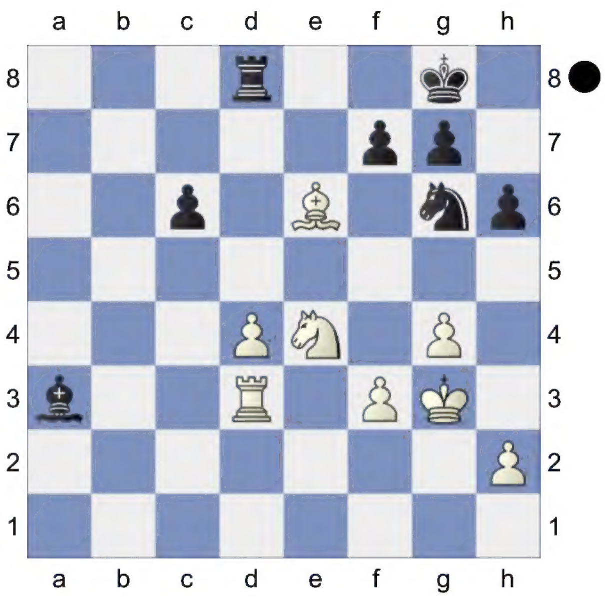
(Diagram)

**43...Bb2?** -0.08/24

[ 43...fxe6 44.Rxa3 Rxd4 45.Ra8+ Kf7 46.Ra7+ Ne7 47.h4= ]

[ 43...Be7!-+ -3.23/21 ...Bh4+ would now be deadly. 44.Bxf7+ ( *44.Bc4? Bh4+ 45.Kh3 Be1-+* ) 44...Kxf7 ]

**44.Bc4** The position is equal. **44...Bxd4 45.f4** Against Ne5 **45...Bb6** Threatening ...Rxd3+. **46.Rxd8+ Bxd8 47.Nd6 Kf8**



And now ...Bc7 would win. **48.Bxf7 Be7 49.Bxg6 Bxd6 50.Kf3 Ke7** What a bad dream for Black.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Bu,Xiangzhi** **2671**
■ **Giri,Anish** **2762**
Shenzhen Longgang 5th (4) 04.03.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5** Deflection **6.Nxb5** 0.09/20

[ 6.e5!± 0.47/24 should be considered. Nd5 7.Nxb5 ]

**6...Nxe4= 7.Qa4** Dodges Bb4+ **7...Nc6N**

[ 7...c6 8.Nc3

A) 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Ba6 10.Bxc4 Bxc4 11.Qxc4 Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.g3 ( *13.Rb1 Qc7 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.c4 c5 16.d5 exd5 17.Qxd5*

*Nb6 18.Qd3 Rad8* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.Nxb5 #7 *)* 13...Qa5 14.Be3 Qd5 15.Qe2 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Rab1 Nb6 19.c4 Bc7 20.Rdc1 Rac8 21.Qf3 Qg6 22.Qxc6 Bxg3 23.Qg2 ½-½ (68) 15. ♘d4 d5 16.e5 ♘e4 15226 (2468)-Johnsen,S (2483) 39th Rilton Cup 2009 (7);

**B)** 8...Nd6 9.g3 Be7 10.Bg2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Ne5 Nb6 13.Nxc6 Qc7 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qa3 Qd7 16.Bxa8 Nxa8 17.d5 Nb6 18.Be3 Nf5 19.Rad1 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Qxa7 Bb7 22.Bd4 0-1 (33) Kurenny (2597)-1.e4 player (2527) 73/(205) Dushanbe 1998 (7.4) h5 23.f3 Ra8 24.Qc5 Ra6 25.Rfe1 Rg6 26.Qa7 Qc8 27.a3 Nh4 28.Re3 Qf5 29.Qb8+ Kh7 30.Re8 Nxf3+ 31.Kh1 Rf6 32.Rh8+ Kg6 33.Qg8 Ng5 Chapter D25-Games Chapter D25 Game 1 ]

**8.Nc3** White has an edge. **8...Nxc3 9.bxc3**

[ 9.Qxc6+ Bd7 10.Qxc4 Nd5 ]

**9...Bd7** ...Nxd4! is the strong threat. **10.Qxc4**

[ 10.Bxc4 Nxd4 11.Qd1 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 h6∓ ]

**10...Rb8 11.Be2 Bd6 12.0-0 Ne7 13.a4** Dodges Bb5 **13...Ng6** 0.58/23

[ 13...Bc6= -0.03/23 ]

**14.Be3 0-0**

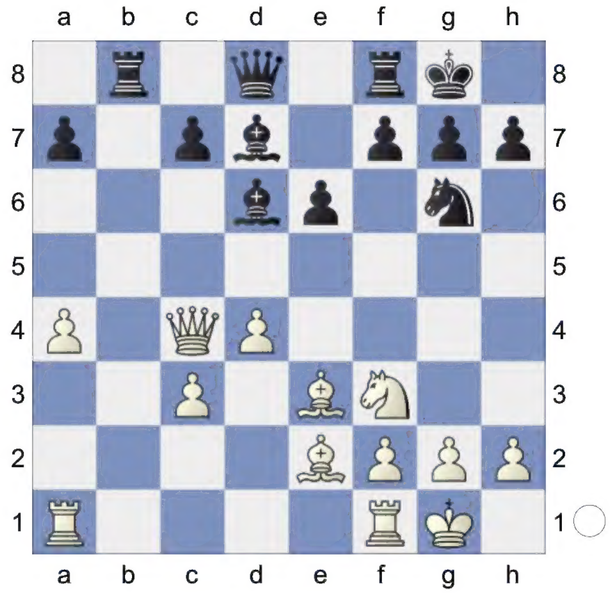
(Diagram)

**15.Ne5! a5**

[ 15...Be8 16.Nxg6 ]

**16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Bf3 Rb6 18.g3 Rfb8 19.Be4 c6** 0.81/19

[ 19...Ne7± 0.38/20 ]



**20.Qd3±** White leaves nothing to chance now. **20...Kh8** 1.34/21

[Black should play 20...Qc7 0.82/19 ]

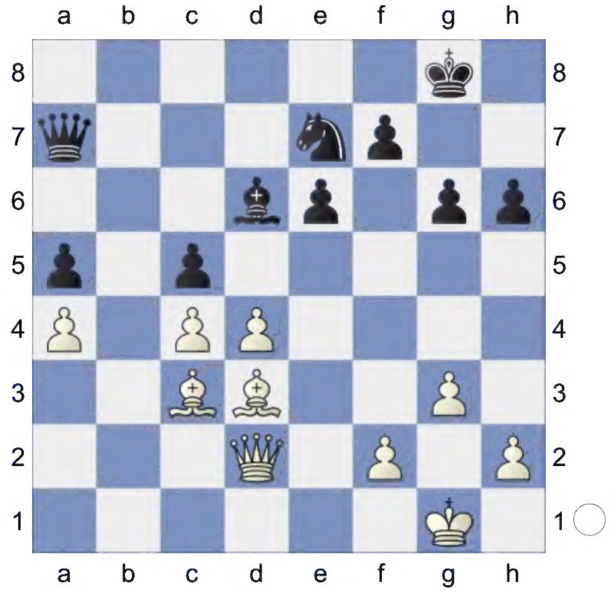
**21.Rab1 Rxb1 22.Rxb1 Rxb1+ 23.Qxb1 Qc7** Against Qb6 **24.Bd2 Ne7 25.c4!**

[ 25.Bxh7 g6 26.Bxg6 Nxg6∓ ]

**25...Qa7 26.Bc3** White is much more active.

[ 26.Bxh7 Qxd4 27.Bd3 *( 27.Bxa5? g6∓ )* 27...Bb4= ]

**26...h6 27.Qb2** aiming for c5. **27...Kg8 28.Bd3 g6 29.Qd2! c5**



**30.d5**

[ 30.Bxa5 cxd4 31.Bb4 Bc5± ]

**30...exd5 31.cxd5**→ Black is in trouble.

[ 31.Bxa5 Nc6 32.Bxg6 *( 32.cxd5? Qxa5 33.Qxa5 Nxa5-+; 32.Bc3 d4∓ )* 32...Bf8 *( 32...Qxa5 33.Qxd5 Ne5 34.Bh5=; 32...Nxa5 33.Qxh6 fxg6 34.Qxg6+ Kh8 35.Qxd6= )* 33.Qxd5 *( 33.cxd5 Nxa5 34.Bc2 c4∓; 33.Bc3? d4-+ )* 33...Nxa5∓ ]

[ 31.Qxh6 d4 32.Bd2 Qd7= ]

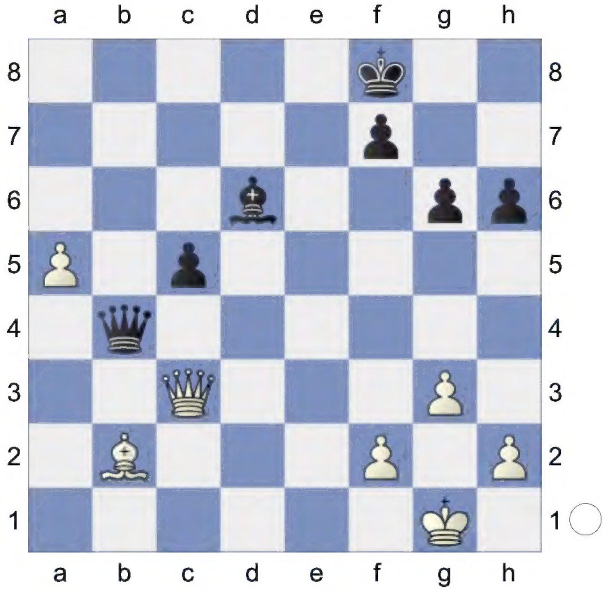
**31...Nxd5 32.Bb2** This pair of bishops is nice.

[ 32.Bxa5?! Bc7 33.Bxc7 Qxc7± ]

**32...Qe7 33.Qxa5**

[ 33.Qxh6 Be5 34.Bxg6 fxg6 *( 34...Bxb2 35.Bh7+ Kh8 36.Be4+ Kg8 37.Bxd5± )* 35.Qxg6+ Kf8 *( 35...Bg7 36.Bxg7 Qxg7 37.Qe6+ Qf7 38.Qc8+ Kg7 39.Qxc5= )* 36.Qf5+ Bf6= ]

**33...Nb4 34.Qa8+ Qf8 35.Qf3 Nxd3 36.Qxd3+-** Endgame. KQB-KQB **36...Qb8 37.Qc3 Kf8 38.a5** Hoping for a6. **38...Qb4**



**39.Qh8+ Ke7 40.Qf6+** Deflection **40...Kd7 41.Qxf7+ Be7 42.Qd5+ Bd6 43.Bg7 Qxa5 44.Qf7+**

[Not 44.Bxh6 Qe1+ 45.Kg2 Qe6 46.Qb7+ Ke8± ]

**44...Be7 45.Qxg6 Qe1+ 46.Kg2 c4 47.Bxh6**

[Worse is 47.Qxh6 Qe4+ 48.f3 Qc2+ *( 48...Qe2+ 49.Kh3= )* 49.Kh3 Qf5+ 50.Kg2 Qc2+ 51.Kf1 Bc5 52.Qh3+ Kc7 53.Be5+ Kd8 54.Bf6+ Kc7 55.Be5+ Bd6 56.Bxd6+ Kxd6= ]

**47...Bc5 48.Qf7+ Kc6 49.Qxc4** Black must now prevent Be3. **49...Qxf2+ 50.Kh3 Qf5+ 51.Qg4 Qd5 52.Bf4 Kb7 53.Qe2** And now Qg2 would win. White is clearly winning. **53...Qf5+ 54.Kg2 Kb6 55.h4 Qd5+ 56.Qf3 Qa2+ 57.Kh3 Qe6+ 58.g4 Qe1 59.Bg3** Against Bf2 **59...Qe6 60.h5 Be7 61.Bf4 Bc5** Against Qe3 **62.h6** h7 would now be deadly. **62...Qf7** 7.80/19

[ ⌓62...Bd4 4.86/17 63.Kg3 Qe1+ 64.Kg2 Qg1+ 65.Kh3 Qb1 ]

**63.Qe4 Qb3+ 64.Bg3** Threatens to win with h7. **64...Qc3 65.Qe6+ Kb5 66.h7 Bd4 67.Qe8+ Kb6 68.Qb8+ Ka6 69.Qa8+ Kb6 70.Qe4 Bh8 71.g5 Qc8+ 72.Kh4 Qd7 73.Qb4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.28 (precise)

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Navara,David** **2667**
■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2715**
Prague Masters 6th (4) 01.03.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6**

**9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Rb8**

[ 11...Qd7 12.Nc3 Nb4 13.Qf4 *( 13.b3 cxb3 14.axb3 0-0 15.Qb2 a5 16.Bd2 Rfb8 17.Qb1 h6 18.Ne4 Qd5 19.Nc3 Qd8 20.Rc1 Nd7 21.Na4 c5 22.dxc5 Nxe5 23.Bf4 Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Bxf3 25.Bxb8 Bxg2 26.Kxg2 Qd5+ 27.f3 Rxb8* 0-1 (35) Simpson,R (2432)-9....h6 (2638) Online Olym Top DivC 2020 rapid (6.3)) 13...f5 14.Qg3 0-0 15.h4 Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2818) Saint Louis (rapid) 142/(136) 2019 ]

**12.Qf4** Qg3 is the strong threat. **12...0-0 13.Nc3 Nb4 14.Qg4N**

[ 14.Qg3 Kh8 6) Vienna - Main Line 5. e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 15.Be3 Qd7 16.Nd2 Ba6 17.Rab1 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Qc6 20.Nxa4 Qxc4 21.Rdc1 Qa6 22.Nc3 Nxa2 23.Nxa2 Qxa2 24.Ra1 Qxb2 25.Rxa7 Bd8 26.Qf3 Rb5 27.Qc6 Rd5 28.h3 Kg8 29.Rb7 Qa3 (69) Endgame Play-Mishra,A ]

**14...Kh8 15.Ng5 Qe8** 1.30/20

[ 15...h6⩲ 0.36/18 16.Nf3 Qd7 ]

**16.Qh5** 0.52/22

[ 16.Qh3⩲ 1.30/20 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 ]

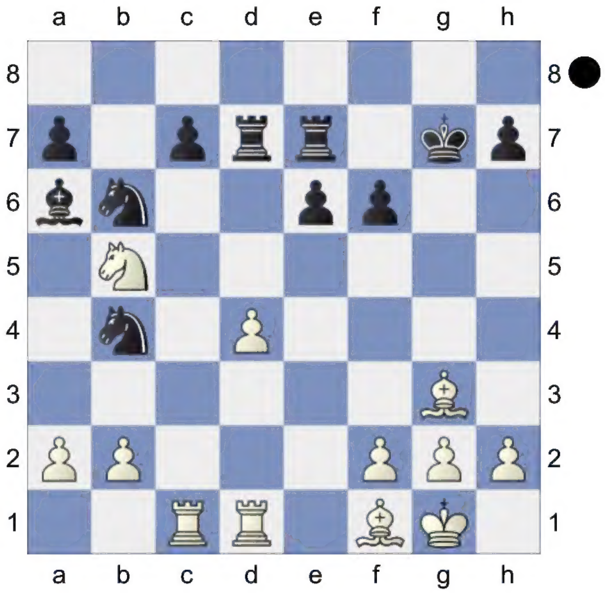
**16...Bxg5 17.Bxg5 f5 18.exf6 gxf6 19.Qxe8 Rbxe8 20.Bf4 Re7 21.Bg3 Rd8 22.Rac1** Prevents Nc2. **22...Kg7 23.Nb5 Rdd7**

[ 23...Nxa2 24.Ra1 c6 25.Nd6+- *( 25.Nxa7 Nb4∓; 25.Rxa2 cxb5 26.Rxa7 Na4⩱ )*]

**24.Bxc4 Ba6 25.Bf1**

(Diagram)

Black must now prevent a3. **25...Nxa2 26.Rxc7 Bxb5 27.Rxd7 Bxd7 28.Ra1 Bc6 29.Rxa2 Bd5 30.Ra1 Nc4! 31.b4 Rb7** Repels Bb8 **32.Bd3 Nd2 33.f3** 0.11/25



[ 33.Bd6⩲ 0.75/24 ]

**33...Nb3** 0.64/26

[ 33...Bc4!= 0.11/25 ]

**34.Ra6** 0.11/23

[ 34.Ra4⩲ 0.64/26 ]

**34...Nxd4= 35.Bd6 e5** 0.49/24

[ 35...Nc6= 0.13/24 was preferrable. ]

**36.Bc5⩲** A strong pair of Bishops. **36...Nb3 37.Bd6**

[ 37.Rxa7? too greedy. Nxc5 38.Rxb7+ Nxb7-+ ]

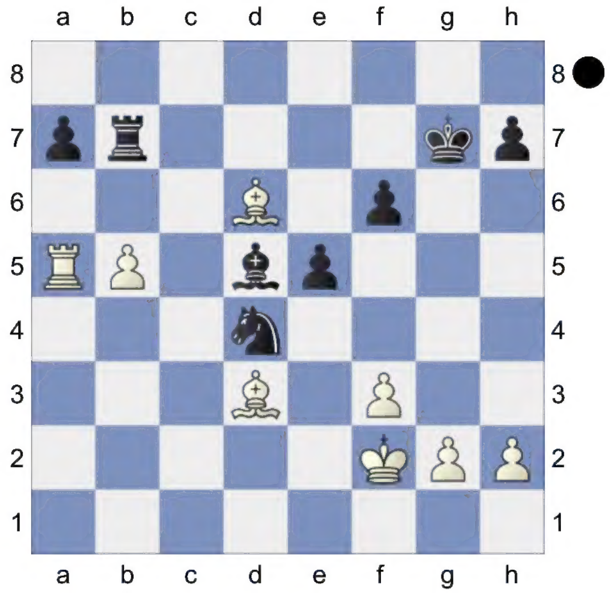
**37...Nd4 38.Kf2** 0.06/19

[ 38.Bc5⩲ 0.45/22 Nb3 39.Be3 *( 39.Rxa7?* loses. *Nxc5 40.Rxb7+ Nxb7-+; 39.Bxa7 Nc1⩲ )*]

**38...Nc6!=** The position is equal. **39.b5 Nd4 40.Ra5**

(Diagram)

Strongly threatening b6! **40...Nb3 41.Ra4 Nd4 42.f4 Nxb5 43.fxe5 Nxd6 44.exd6** Endgame. And now Bf5 would win. KRB-KRB **44...Kf7 45.Bxh7** Hoping for Rd4. **45...Ke6 46.Bg8+ Kxd6 47.Rd4 Rb5 48.h4** h5 would now be deadly. **48...Ke5 49.Rxd5+ Rxd5**



**50.Bxd5 Kxd5** KPP-KPP **51.Ke3**

[ 51.h5!? Ke6□ 52.g4= ]

**51...Ke5**

[ 51...f5!? ]

**52.Kd3 f5** aiming for ...f4. **53.g3 a5 54.Kc4 f4 55.gxf4+ Kxf4 56.Kb5 Kg4 57.Kxa5 Kxh4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Robson,Ray** **2696**

■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2771**

Saint Louis Blitz (10) 18.11.2023

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.a3 Rb8 12.Qc2 Na5 13.Rad1**

[ 13.Nxa7 Bd7 14.Qc3 Nb3∓ ]

**13...Qd7 14.Nc3**

[ 14.Nxa7 Bb7 15.Bd2 Nb3∓ ]

**14...Bb7 15.Ng5N**

[ 15.Nd2 Bc6 16.Nde4 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Na4 20.Bd2 Nb3 21.Be3 Na5 22.Rb1 Rb7 23.Bd2 Nb3 24.Rxc4 Nb6 25.Rc3 Nd5 26.Rd3 Nxd2 27.Nxd2 Nf4 28.Re3 Nxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Rd8 1-0 (48) 3.Bh4 Nh6! (2619)-Lirindzakis,T (2493) Paris Immopar rapid 1992 (4) ]

**15...Bxg5 16.Bxg5 Nb3** 0.76/19 Prevents Qd2.

[ 16...h6= 0.14/20 17.Be3 Bc6 ]

**17.Be3± Rfd8** 1.18/20

[ 17...Qe7⩲ 0.65/19 ]

**18.Ne4** 0.20/23

[ 18.d5± 1.18/20 Strongly threatening Bxb6. Nxd5 *( 18...exd5 19.Bxb6* Remove Defender *cxb6 20.Bxc4±* Pin, Double Attack*)* 19.Bxc4 *( 19.Bxa7 Ra8⩲ )*]

**18...Bxe4**

[ 18...Qa4 is interesting. 19.Ng5 g6 20.Qb1 Nd5 ]

**19.Qxe4 Na4 20.Bxc4 Nxb2 21.Bxb3 Rxb3 22.Rb1 Rdb8 23.Qc2** -0.20/25

[ 23.Rfc1⩲ 0.45/23 ]

**23...h6 24.h3 a5 25.Rfc1 a4 26.Qxc7 Qxc7 27.Rxc7 Rxa3 28.d5 exd5 29.e6 fxe6 30.Bd4 Rab3!** And now ...e5! would win. **31.Rxg7+**

[ 31.Rxb2 Rxb2 32.Rxg7+ Kf8 33.Bxb2 Rxb2-+ ]

**31...Kf8 32.Ra7**

[ 32.Rh7!? R8b4 33.Re1= ]

**32...Nd3** Dodges Re1 **33.Rf1 a3 34.Kh2** -1.27/23

[ 34.f4= -0.28/23 ]

**34...R8b7 35.Ra6 e5 36.Be3 d4** -0.81/20

[ ⌓36...Nb4 -1.39/24 37.Bxh6+ Kf7 ]

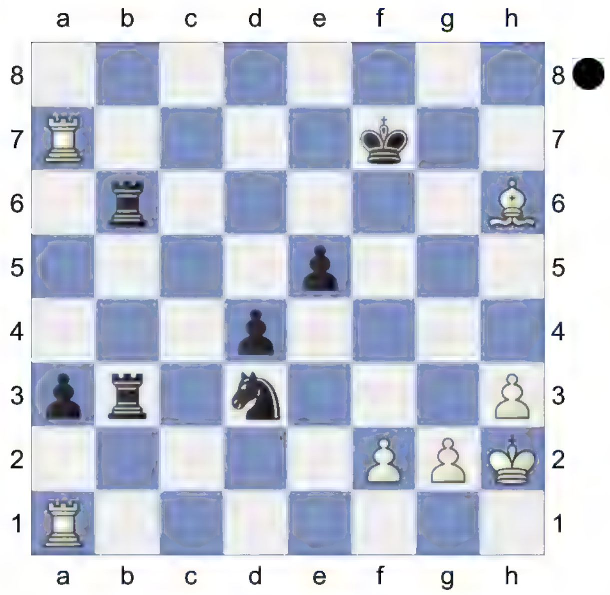
**37.Bxh6+∓ Kf7** -0.19/17

[ 37...Kg8∓ -1.10/20 ...Nb4 is the

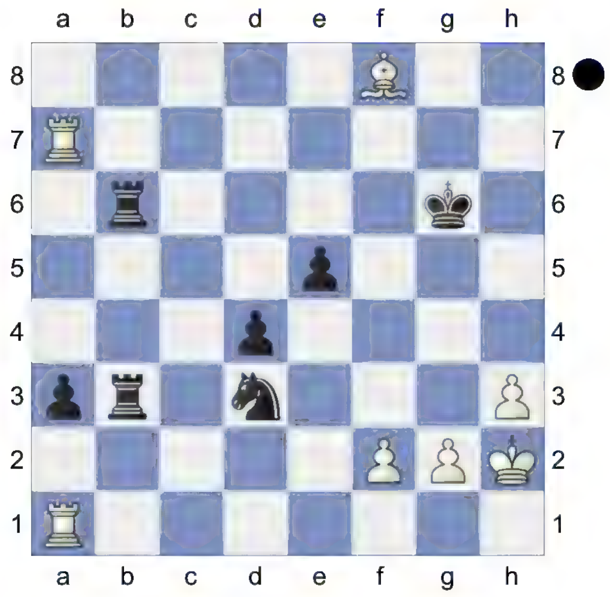
strong threat. 38.Ra1 Nxf2 39.R6xa3 Kh7 ]

**38.Ra1!= R7b6** -0.01/24
[ 38...e4∓ -0.42/24 ]

**39.Ra7+** -0.99/23
[ 39.Rxb6= -0.01/24 remains equal. Rxb6 40.Rxa3 ]



**39...Kg6!∓** White is on the road to losing. **40.Bf8** -2.59/23
[ 40.Bg7∓ -1.11/21 ]



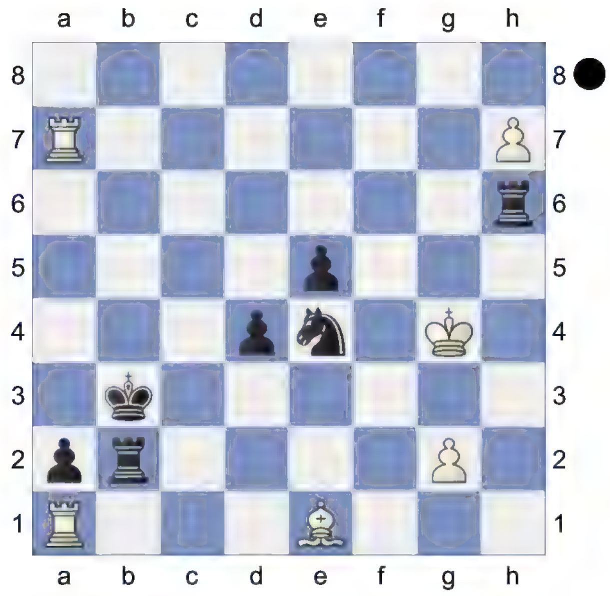
**40...Nxf2?** -0.97/19
[ 40...Rf6!-+ -2.59/23 has better winning chances. 41.Rg7+ Kf5 42.Bxa3 Ra6 ( *42...Nxf2 43.Be7=* ) 43.Rg5+ ( *43.Ra2? Raxa3 44.Rf7+ Ke6-+* ) 43...Ke4 ( *43...Kxg5 44.Be7+ Rf6 45.Ra6=* Pin ) 44.f3+ Kd5 ]

**41.Rg7+** -2.25/22
[ 41.Rf1∓ -0.97/19 Rb7 42.Ra4 ( *42.Rxa3?* loses. *Rxa3 43.Bxa3 Nd3-+* )]

**41...Kf6-+** White must now prevent ...Rb8. **42.Rf1?** -3.93/20
[ 42.Ra7 -2.32/20 Ke6 43.Bxa3 ]

**42...Rb2 43.Ra7 a2 44.Bc5** -5.85/19
[ 44.Kg3 -3.79/18 was worth a try. R6b3+ 45.Kh4 ]

**44...R6b5** Black is clearly winning. **45.Be7+ Ke6 46.Bh4 Ne4** Active counter play! **47.Ra1 Nc3 48.Be1 Kd5 49.h4 Kc4 50.h5 Kb3** ...e4 would now be deadly. **51.h6 Rb6 52.h7 Rh6+ 53.Kg3 Ne4+ 54.Kg4**



**Rxh7!!** Decoy **55.Rxh7**
[ 55.Ra8 Nd6 ]

**55...Nf6+**
[Inferior is 55...Rxg2+ 56.Kf3 Ng5+ 57.Kxg2= ]

**56.Kf5 Nxh7 57.Kxe5 Rb1 58.Kxd4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/Black=0.17 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

□ **Warmerdam,Max** **2625**
■ **Nepomniachtchi,Ian** **2769**
Tata Steel-A 86th (1) 13.01.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4** 4 **Nf6** 9 **2.c4** 6 **e6** 5 **3.Nf3** 5 **d5** 5 **4.Nc3** 5 **dxc4** 12 **5.e4** 6 **b5** 4 **6.e5!** 5 **Nd5** 15 **7.Nxb5** 7 **Nb6** 4 **8.Be2** 5 White is slightly better. **8...Nc6** 20 **9.Be3** 15 **Be7** 1:06 **10.Nc3** 33 **Bb7** 19 **11.a3** 1:15 **Na5** 2:16 **12.Qc2** 3:21 **Qd7** 1:49 **13.Rd1** 5:31 **f5N** 4:53

[ 13...Bc6 14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) ]

[ 13...Rb8 14.h4 h6 15.Rh3 Bc6 16.Nd2 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Kd7 20.h5 Rhc8 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f4 Na4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Nxb2 25.Rc2 c6 26.Bc1 Na4 27.f5 Nb6 28.fxe6+ 1-0 (53) Move 10 Sidelines (2544)-6. ♕ d2 ♗ a6 7.b3 52278 (2541) Deutschland 155/73 2023 ]

**14.exf6** 6:35 **gxf6** 34 **15.Ne4** -0.26/21 3:10

[ 15.Nd2± 0.50/22 ]

**15...Qa4=** 2:32 **16.Qb1** 1:50 **0-0-0** 1:48 **17.Nc5** 20:38 **Bxc5** 29 **18.dxc5** 5 **Nd5** 1:22 aiming for ...c3. **19.0-0** 56 **Rdg8** -0.04/18 9:35

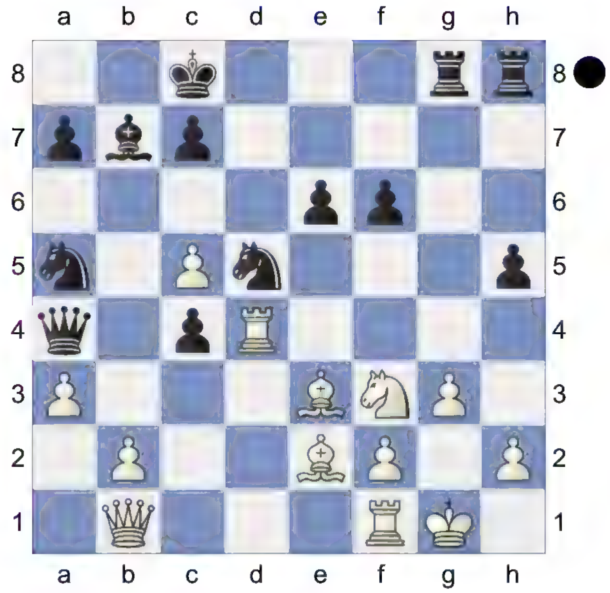
[ 19...Kb8∓ -0.40/20 ]

**20.g3** -0.50/22 11:47

[ 20.Qe4= -0.04/18 Re8 21.Qd4 ]

**20...h5∓** 59 Strongly threatening ...h4. **21.Rd4** -1.20/19 3:28

[ 21.Nd4∓ -0.51/19 ]



**21...Qc6!∓** 40 ...h4 is the strong threat. **22.Rh4** -1.72/20 12:39

[ 22.Qe1∓ -1.14/19 was worth a try. Nxe3 *( 22...Qxc5? 23.Rxc4 Qxc4 24.Bxc4+- )* 23.fxe3 Qxc5 24.Qc3 ]

**22...Nxe3** 15:15 **23.fxe3** 8

(Diagram)

**Rg4!** 7

[ 23...Qxc5 24.Qc1 Qb6 25.Qc3± ]

**24.Qc1?** -4.03/20 20:03

[ 24.Rf2∓ -1.60/23 ]

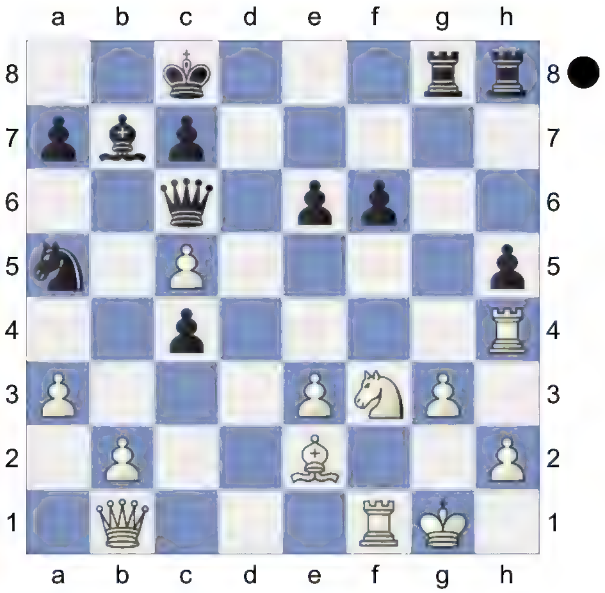
**24...Rxh4-+** 1:20

[ 24...Qxc5 25.b4 Qd6 26.bxa5± ]

**25.gxh4** 6 **Nb3** 16

[ 25...Qxc5 26.b4 Qf5 *( 26...Rg8+? 27.Kf2+- )* 27.bxa5+- ]

**26.Qc3** 20 **Nxc5** 3:17 And now ...Rg8+



would win. Black is clearly winning.

[Worse is 26...Qxc5 27.Bxc4 Rg8+ *( 27...Qf5 28.Qxb3 Qg4+ 29.Kf2= )* 28.Kf2= *( 28.Ng5 Qc6∓ )*]

**27.Qxf6** 3:46 **Rg8+** 21 **28.Kh1** 5 **Qe4** 5:16 **29.Rg1** 6:29 Prevents Qg4 **29...Rd8** 13

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.04 (flawless)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Predke,Alexandr** **2656**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2726**
FIDE Grand Swiss (2) 26.10.2023
*[N Davies,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** And now 0-0 would win. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0 Nf6** **8.Qc2N** White has compensation. White has an edge. Leaves trodden paths. A promising side line.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

[Perhaps Duda was prepared for 8.a3 -0.08/19 8.Qa4+ 0.33 but he couldn't have expected this. It was played some years ago by a 2100 player but that's just about it. White is arguing that his compensation can unfold gradually, first putting a rook on d1 and then bringing his pieces to active squares. Meanwhile it's difficult for Black to do a lot and his extra pawn is meaningless for the time being. ]

[ 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 *( 9.Bg5 Bxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Rad1 h6 12.Bh4 Ne7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qc2 Rb8 15.a4 a6 16.Rfe1 b5 17.Ba2 Kg7 18.Nh4 Qd6 19.Rd3 f5 20.axb5 axb5* The Vienna Variation-Chapter Qa4 5569 2021 *)*

**A)** 9...a5 10.d5 *( 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10...exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Bf4 Be6 16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Bxe6 fxe6 18.Be3 Rd5 19.Rac1 Bd6 20.Rc4 Rb5 21.b3 Ra8 22.Rd1 a4 23.bxa4 Rb2 24.a3 ½-½ (30) Pantos,N (2482)-4.♕c2 c5 5.dc5 00 35609 (2539) ch St Petersburg RUS 2007 (7.1);

**B)** 9...Rb8 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 cxd4 15.Rxd4 h6 16.h3 Qe7 17.a4 Bc5 18.Rd3 Chapter Vienna-5.e4 Bb4 7.0-0 Nf6!? 2020 ]

**8...0-0** **9.Rd1!N** A move which illustrates Predke's thinking, he wants to inhibit a pawn break with either ...c7-c5 or ...e6-e5. If Black can't do this then what is his plan? Meanwhile we are heading towards one of the fastest rook lifts in history.

[ Vorgänger: Vorgänger: Strasil - Zilka, Czech Team Ch. 2014 had gone 9.a3 Be7 0.24/20 *( 9...Bxc3* -0.25/19 might be stronger. *10.bxc3 b6 )* 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Bd3 -0.70/21 *( 11.Ba2=* 0.06/21 *)* 11...Re8 -0.26/23 *( 11...h6∓* -0.70/21 *12.Bh4 b6 )* 12.Ne5 Nf8! 13.Rad1 Nd5 14.Bd2 f6 15.Nf3 Nxc3 16.Bxc3 with pretty good compensation at this point, plus there's a case for recapturing on c3 with the b-pawn.0-1 Strasil,P (2105)-Zilka,S (2528) CZE-chT2D 1415 2014 (9.1) ]

**9...Nbd7 10.Ne5 Be7** 0.22/20

[ 10...Bd6 -0.27/22 should be considered. ]

**11.Rd3 Nb6** 0.43/19 This looks too passive, giving White the time he needs to bring his pieces to strong attacking squares.

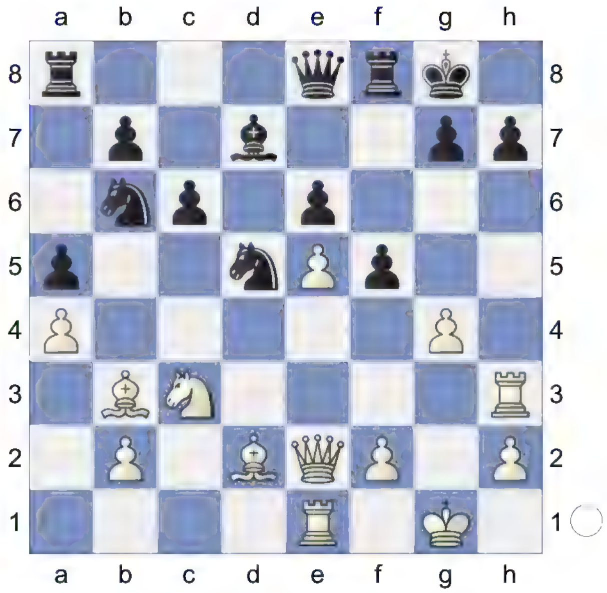
[I feel that 11...c5! may be critical, trying to get his pieces out. There seems to be nothing clear for White, for example 12.Bg5 cxd4 13.Rxd4 Threatens to win with Rad1. Qc7 14.Nxd7 Bxd7 15.Ne4! Black must now prevent Nxf6+. Nd5! frees Black's position. ]

[Black should play 11...c5!= -0.13/22 ]

**12.Bb3± Nfd5 13.Rh3 f5! 14.Qe2↑** White has obvious compensation now because of the weaknesses along the e-file. Once again Predke provides us with a masterclass in pursuing the initiative. White has the initiative. **14...Qe8 15.Bd2 a5 16.a4** White is more active. **16...Bf6 17.Re1 c6 18.g4!** There's nothing new about such moves, White prises open the kingside whilst his opponent's development is incomplete. Even so it makes a very pleasing impression. **18...Bxe5 19.dxe5 Bd7** 1.51/19

[ 19...Qf7 0.94/17 19...Nxc3 0.37 was better. ]

[ 19...Nxc3± 0.49/20 20.bxc3 Nd5 ]



After this White's initiative develops further. **20.gxf5!± Rxf5 21.Ne4** aiming for Nd6.

[There was a case for 21.Bc2 , but Black would no doubt sacrifice the exchange with Qf7 ]

**21...Qe7** 2.05/20

[ 21...Rxe5± 1.06/19 22.Rg3 Qf7 ]

**22.Qg4+- Rxe5 23.Bc2 Nc4** 1.83/22

[ 23...h5± 1.43/21 24.Qg3 *( 24.Rxh5 Rxh5 25.Qxh5 Be8± )* 24...Nc4 ]

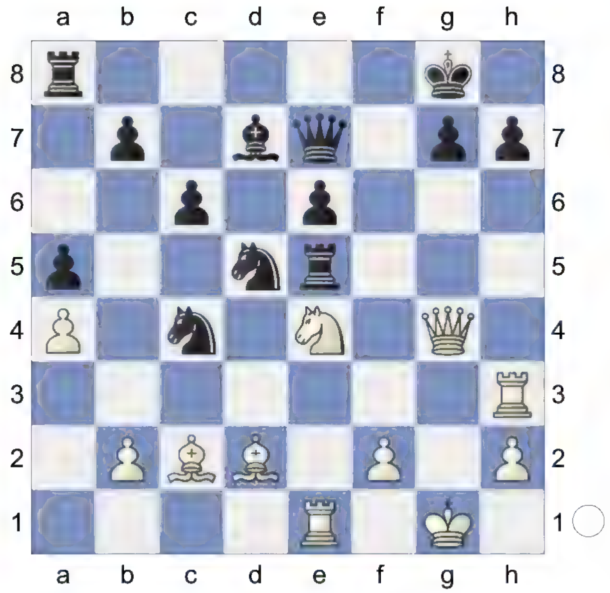
(Diagram)

**24.Bg5** 0.65/20

[ 24.Nc3!+- 1.83/22 Rxe1+ 25.Bxe1 ]

**24...Qb4?** 2.82/20 This costs Black the game.

[ 24...Qxg5!± 0.65/20 25.Nxg5 Discovered Attack *( 25.Qxg5 Rxg5+ 26.Nxg5* Discovered Attack *h6± )*



25...Rxe1+ 26.Kg2 h6 27.Qxc4 *( 27.Bh7+ Kh8= )* 27...hxg5 ]

**25.Re2** Nf6+! is the strong threat. **25...g6** 3.34/21

[ 25...Nxb2? too greedy. 26.Rxh7 g6 27.Rxd7+- ]

[ 25...Qxb2? 26.Nf6+ Nxf6 27.Bxf6+- ]

[ ⌓25...Rf5 1.93/21 ]

**26.Qh4 h5 27.Qg3 Qxb2** 5.08/20

[Losing, but 27...Be8 would be no bed of roses for Black either. ]

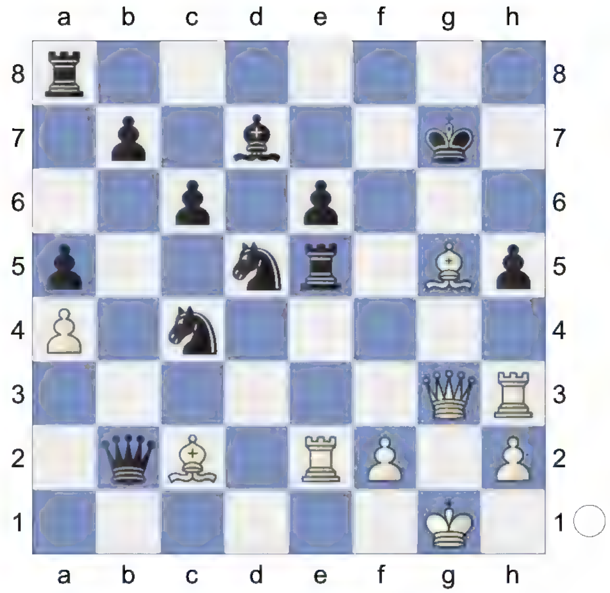
[ ⌓27...Be8 3.28/21 28.b3 Rxg5 29.Qxg5 Ncb6 30.Rxh5 Qd4 ]

**28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.Nxh5+**

[Not 29.Nxd7 Qa1+ *( 29...Rxe2? loses. 30.Bf6++- )* 30.Kg2 Rxe2+- ]

**29...gxh5**

(Diagram)



**30.Bh6+!** Decoy. A strong pair of Bishops. **30...Kf7 31.Qg7+** It's mate next move.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.63

**1-0**

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**D39**

☐ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2853**
■ **Artemiev,Vladislav** **2701**
Chessable Masters Div 1 Win rapid (1.1)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5*

*18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+!?** An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **9.bxc3** And now Nb5 would win. **9...Qa5**

**10.Bd2** -0.14/21

[ 10.Bb5+ ]

[ 10.Bxf6 ]

[ 10.Nb5 ]

[ 10.Bxf6± 0.34/23 Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 *( 11...Qxc4+ 12.Kg1± )* 12.Rc1 ]

**10...0-0** 0.23/23

[ 10...Nxe4 11.Qg4! Nxd2 12.Qxg7 Rf8 0.38/17 *( 12...Nxc4 13.Qxh8+ Ke7! 14.0-0!; 12...Nxc4= -0.19/21 13.Qxh8+ Ke7 )* 13.Kxd2± With the idea Rhe1! Qc5 0.63/18 *( 13...Bd7= 0.13/18 )*]

[ ⌓10...Nxe4 -0.14/21 11.Qg4 Nxd2 *( 11...Nxc3? loses. 12.Qxg7 Rf8 13.Nb5+- )* 12.Qxg7 Nxc4 13.Qxh8+ Ke7 ]

**11.Qe2 e5** The position is equal. **12.Nb3 Qc7 13.0-0N Bg4**

[ 13...Re8 ]

[ 13...b6 ]

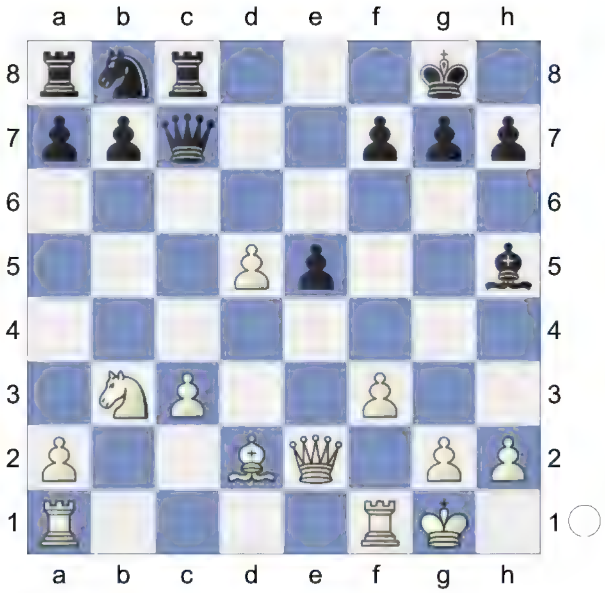
**14.f3 Rc8 15.Bd5**

[ 15.Bxf7+ Qxf7 16.fxg4 Qc4± ]

**15...Nxd5 16.exd5 Bh5**

[ 16...Bf5 17.Rac1 ]

(Diagram)



**17.c4! Nd7 18.Rfc1 b6 19.a4 a5**

[ 19...Qd6 20.a5 -0.01/22 *( 20.Be1± 0.37/23 )* 20...b5 ]

**20.Qf2 Qd6 21.Be3 Bg6 22.Qd2 f6 23.Qb2 Rc7 24.Nd2 Nc5 25.Qa3 Rd8**

[ 25...Qf8 26.Rc3 Rb8 ]

**26.Rc3 f5** 1.18/23

[ 26...Rb7 ½-½ (32) Lenic,L (2624)-Beliavsky,A (2603) Bled 2016 ]

[ 26...Rb7± 0.37/22 ]

**27.Re1 e4** 1.78/23

[ 27...Be8± 1.24/21 ]

**28.fxe4+- fxe4 29.Bxc5 Rxc5 30.Nxe4 Qe5 31.Rce3 Rcc8**

[ 31...Rxc4 2.28/21 31...Rcc8 1.86 32.Nd2 ]

(Diagram)

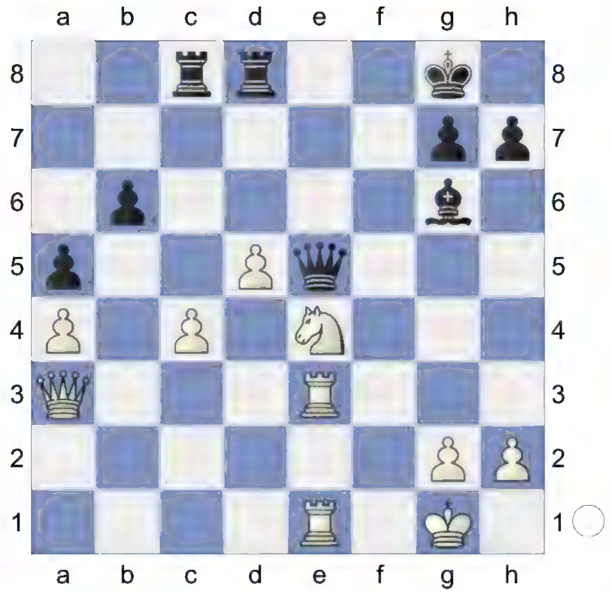
**32.h3! Qc7** 2.26/20

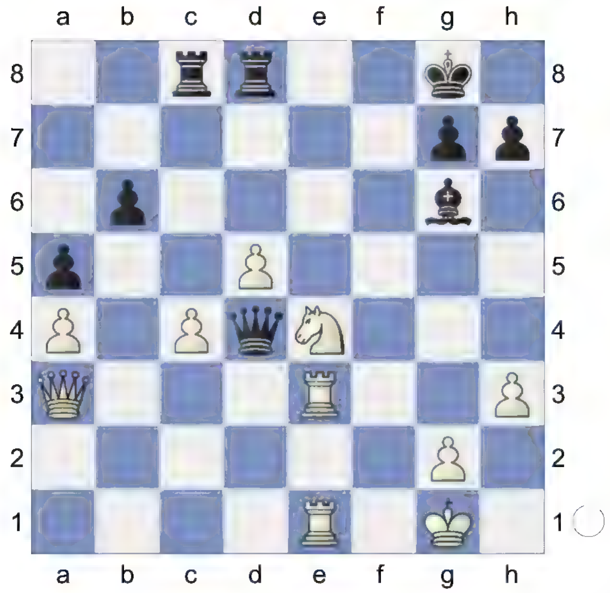
[ 32...Qd4

(Diagram)

33.Nd6! ]

[ 32...Rxc4? 33.Nd2 Qxd5 34.Nxc4 Qxc4 35.Re7+- ]





[ 32...Qd4 1.72/19 keeps fighting. 33.Nd6 Rb8 ]

**33.Nd2 Re8 34.Re7 Rxe7 35.Rxe7**

[Don't play 35.Qxe7?! Qxe7 36.Rxe7 Bd3± ]

**35...Qd8** 5.07/20

[ 35...Qf4 36.Qc3 Bf7 ]

[ ⌓35...Qf4 3.19/22 ]

**36.Qe3 Rc7 37.Re6**

[ 37.Qxb6? is the wrong capture. Qxe7 38.Qxa5 Rc8-+ ]

**37...Rc5** Vorgänger: **38.Qb3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise) . Loss on time!?

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Navara,David** **2678**

■ **Yoo,Christopher Woojin** **2600**

Chess.com Classic Play In rapid (8)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Bxc3** 0.79/18

[ 7...Nf6± 0.35/22 is superior. ]

**8.bxc3±** White is better. **8...Nxc3** 0.18/21

[ 8...0-0± 0.66/20 was preferrable. ]

**9.Qc2N** -0.21/22

[ ⌓9.Qd3 0.18/21 Nd5 10.Ba3 ]

[ 9.Qb3 Nd5 10.Ba3 a5 *( 10...Nc6 11.Rfe1 Nce7 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.d5 exd5 14.Bxd5 0-0 15.Bxf7+ Rxf7 16.Rad1 Qf8 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.f3 Bh5 19.Rd7 Nc6 20.Rxc7 Qc5+ 21.Kh1 Qxg5 22.Qxb7 Rxc7 23.Qxa8+ Qd8 24.Qxd8+ Nxd8* 0-1 9.♗c4 a6 10. a4 69128 (2439)-Payet,A (2651) 90/285 Plovdiv 2003 (5)*)* 11.Ne5 Nb4 12.d5 exd5 13.Bxb4 axb4 14.Bxd5 0-0 15.Bxf7+ Kh8 16.Bc4 Qf6 17.Nf7+ Kg8 18.Qxb4 Nc6 19.Ne5+ Kh8 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.a4 Chapter-Games Chapter 8 Game 12 ]

**9...Nd5= 10.Ba3** And now Ne5 would win. **10...Nc6 11.Rab1 a5! 12.Bb5** -1.12/20

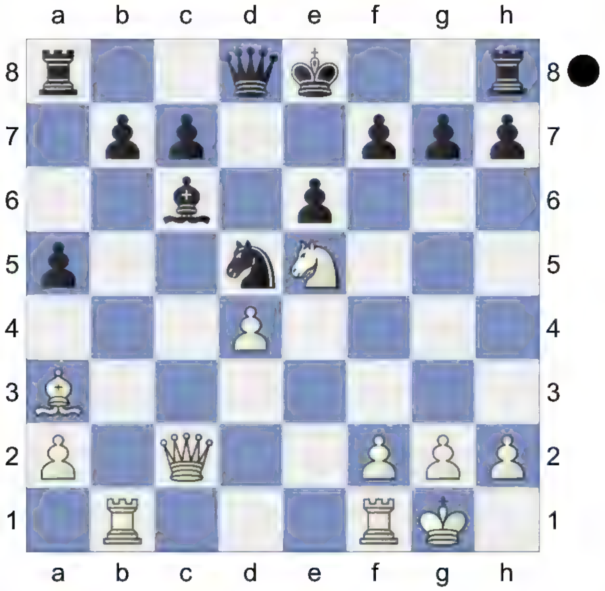
[ 12.Bxd5!∓ -0.31/21 Qxd5 13.Ne5 ]

**12...Bd7∓ 13.Bxc6** -1.59/21

[ ⌓13.Ne5 -1.02/18 Nxe5 *( 13...Nxd4?* perishes. *14.Bxd7++- )*

14.dxe5 ]

**13...Bxc6 14.Ne5**



**Nb4** 0.01/22 **15.Bxb4=** Remove Defender. The position is equal. **15...axb4 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Qxc6+ Kf8 18.Rxb4**

[ 18.Rfd1 is more complex. Qd5 19.Qxc7 g6 20.Rxb4 Rxa2 21.Rb8+ ]

**18...g6 19.a4 Kg7 20.Rc1 Qd6 21.Qc5**

[ 21.Qxc7? loses. Rhc8 ( *21...Qxb4? 22.Qe5+ Kg8 23.h4-+* ) 22.Rb7 Rxc7-+ ]

**21...Ra6 22.Qxc7 Qxb4 23.Qe5+ f6 24.Qc7+ Kh6 25.Qf4+ Kg7 26.Rc7+ Kg8 27.Rc8+**

[ 27.Qxf6? Qe1# ]

**27...Kg7 28.Qc7+ Kh6 29.Qf4+ Kg7 30.Rc7+ Kg8 31.Rc8+**

[ 31.Qxf6? Qe1# ]

**31...Kg7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar 2738**
■ **Tabatabaei,Mohammad Amin 2675**
Chessable Masters Play In rapid (7)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Inf 78/(32) **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5**

[ 3...c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cxd5 exf4 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Rd1+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Rb8 14.b3 Rb4 15.g3 Ke7 16.Rd2 h5 17.Bg2 h4 18.0-0 (28) Georgiev, K (2677)-Topalov,V (2702) 78/(32) Sarajevo 2000 ]

**4.Nf3 dxc4N**

[ 4...c5 5.Bf4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nbd7 7.Qa4 Bc5 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Nxc5 Nxc5 10.Qa3 b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.e3 Qe7 13.Bg3 Rfd8 The Semi Tarrasch-5. ♗f4 5569 2021 ]

**5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qd2** is currently scoring better than 10.Be3 .wohl besser als 10.Le3. **10...0-0 11.Rd1 Rb8 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qf4 Nb4 14.Qg4** Threatens to win with Bh6. **14...Kh8 15.Ne4**

[ 15.Ng5 simplifies h6 16.Nf3 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 N6d5 18.Nxd5 Nxd5 19.h3 ]

**15...f5N**

[Predecessor: 15...Nd3 0.69/20 15...Bd5 0.21 16.Bxd3 cxd3 17.Rxd3 Hoping for Nfg5. c5 2.07/22 ( *17...Ba6± 0.74/21 18.Rb3 Bb7* ) 18.Nd6 c4 2.97/19 ( *18...Bxd6* 1.93/19 keeps fighting. *19.dxc5* Pin *Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Bxc5* ) 19.Rd1? 0.10/18 (Only move: *19.Ng5+-* 2.97/19 *Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Qxd6 21.exd6 cxd3 22.Qg3* ) 19...Bd5= 20.Ng5 -0.46/20

*( 20.b3=* 0.19/20 *)* 20...Bxd6∓ 21.exd6 Black must now prevent Qh5. h6 0-1 (77) Buhmann,R (2573)-Braeuer,F (2445) Magdeburg 2019 ]

**16.exf6 gxf6 17.Nc5**

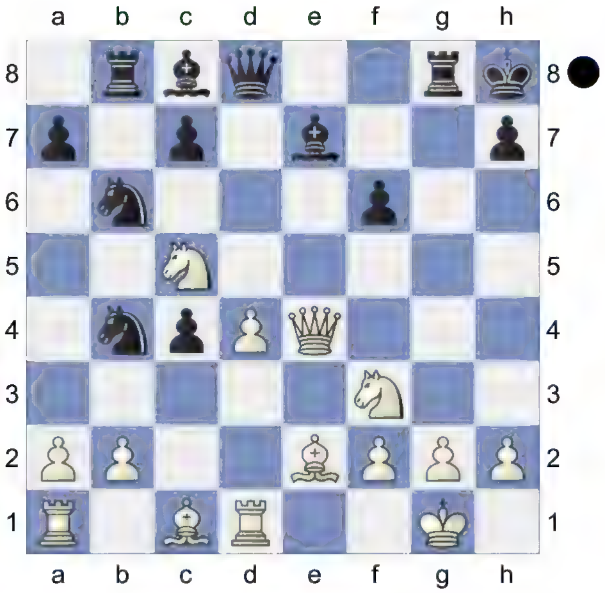
[ 17.Qxe6? Bc8 18.Bxc4 Bxe6-+ ]

**17...Rg8 18.Qxe6** -0.32/19

[ 18.Nxb7!± 0.70/20 Rxg4 19.Nxd8 Rxd8 20.Be3 ]

**18...Bc8!∓ 19.Qe4** -1.28/20

[White should try 19.Qf7!∓ -0.33/23 ]



**19...Rg4!∓** Black has strong compensation. **20.Qb1**

(Diagram)

**Qd5!** aiming for ...Bf5! **21.Be3?** -3.77/21

[ 21.Bh6∓ -0.99/18 was forced. ]

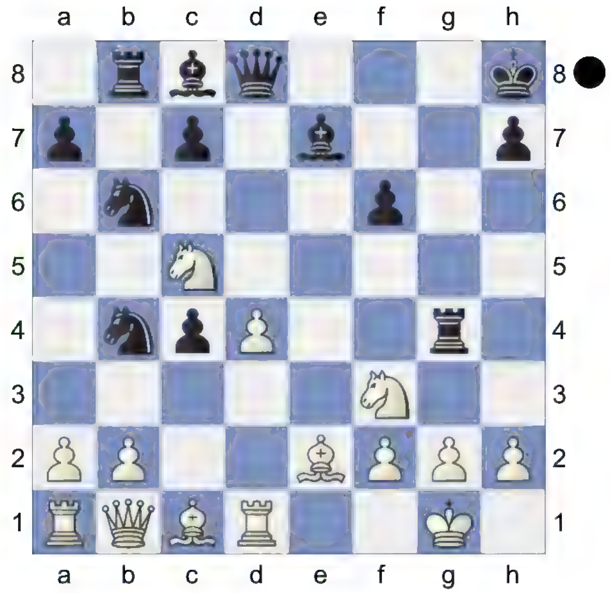
**21...Bf5-+ 22.Qc1 Nc2?** -0.64/21

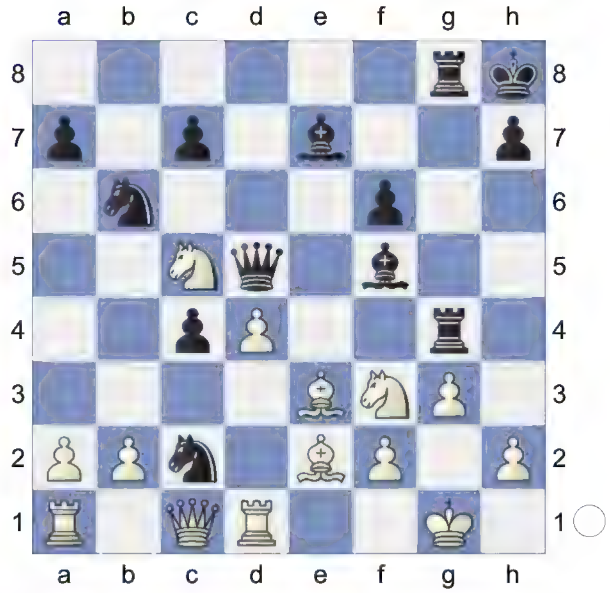
[ 22...Rxg2+-+ -3.67/22 23.Kxg2 Rg8+ 24.Bg5 Rxg5+ 25.Kh1 Nc2 ]

**23.g3!∓ Rbg8** 0.09/22

[Better is 23...Bd6∓ -0.63/18 ]

(Diagram)





Black is much more active. **24.Ne1!= Nxe1**

[ 24...Nxd4?! 25.Bxg4 Rxg4 26.Bxd4 Rxd4 27.b4± *( 27.Rxd4 Qxd4 28.b4 a5± )*]

[ 24...Nxa1 25.Qxa1 ]

**25.Rxe1 Bd6** Inhibits Bf4. ...Bxg3! would now be deadly. Some like it hot **26.Bxg4 Bxg4 27.Qc2** -1.27/22

[Don't play 27.Bf4 Qf3 28.Qc2 *( 28.Qe3? Bxf4 29.Qxf3 Bxf3-+ )* 28...Bxf4-+ ]

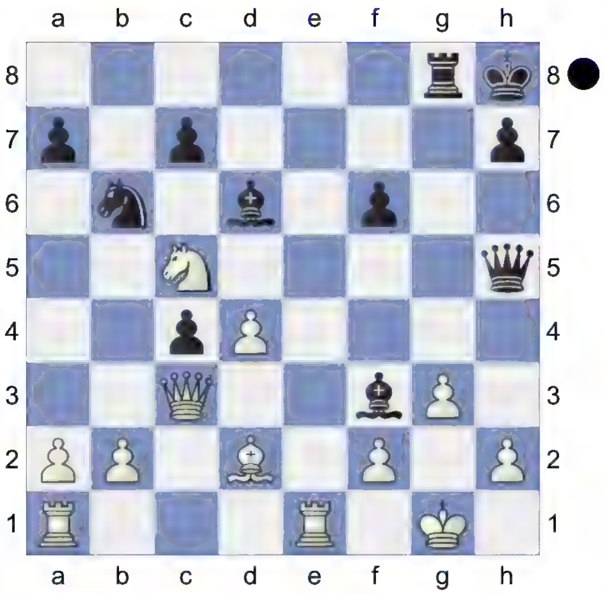
[ 27.f4!= 0.00/23 remains equal. ]

**27...Bf3→** Strongly threatening ...Qh5. White is in trouble. **28.Bd2?** -4.41/19

[ 28.Bh6∓ -1.14/21 is tougher. Qh5 29.Re3 ]

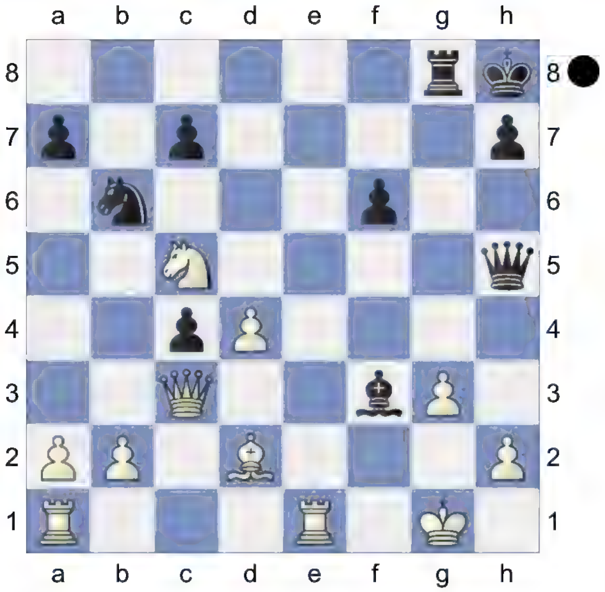
**28...Qh5!-+** ( -> ...Qh3!) **29.Qc3** -12.37/20

[ ⌓29.Re7 -4.95/20 ]



**29...Bxg3!** Demolition **30.fxg3**

[ 30.Qxf3 Bxh2+ ]



**30...Rxg3+!!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.89/Black=0.19 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Lazavik,Denis** **2578**

■ **Martinez Alcantara,Jose Eduardo**

Julius Baer GenCup D2 W rapid (2.2)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0**

**Be7 10.Rb1N**

[ 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Qf4 Rb8 12.Nc3 *( 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Nb4 14.Nc3 Bb7 15.a3 Bxf3 16.axb4 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Nd5 18.Nf4 Rxb4* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 12...f5 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rd1 Nb4 15.b3 cxb3 16.axb3 a6 17.Bc4 Nc2 18.Ra2 Nb4 19.Ra1 Nc2 20.Ra2 Nb4 21.Re2 a5 22.d5 exd5 23.e6 Bd6 24.Qh3 *( 24.Bf4 Rb7 25.Nb5 Bxf4 26.Qxf4 Qe7 27.Bd3* ABersicht 79th ch-BUL 2015*)* 24...Qf6 (38) 10 Best Games of the Golden S-Ding,L ]

[ 10.b3 cxb3 11.Qxb3 a6 12.Nc3 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Rd1 Qb4 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ]

**10...0-0 11.b3 cxb3 12.Rxb3 Bb7 13.Bd3 h6** 1.29/18 Wards off h4

[ 13...Nd5± 0.42/19 ]

**14.Bb1!± Nb4** 2.17/18 Prevents Qd3

[ 14...Na5± 1.38/19 keeps fighting. ]

**15.a3+- Ba6 16.axb4** Black must now prevent Qd3.

[ 16.Rxb4?! Bxb4 17.Qd3 *( 17.Qc2 g6± )* 17...g6± ]

**16...Bxb5 17.Re1 Ba4**

(Diagram)

**18.Qd3! g6 19.Rb2** 0.94/18

[ 19.Qd2+- 2.59/23 is more deadly. ]

**19...Kg7±**

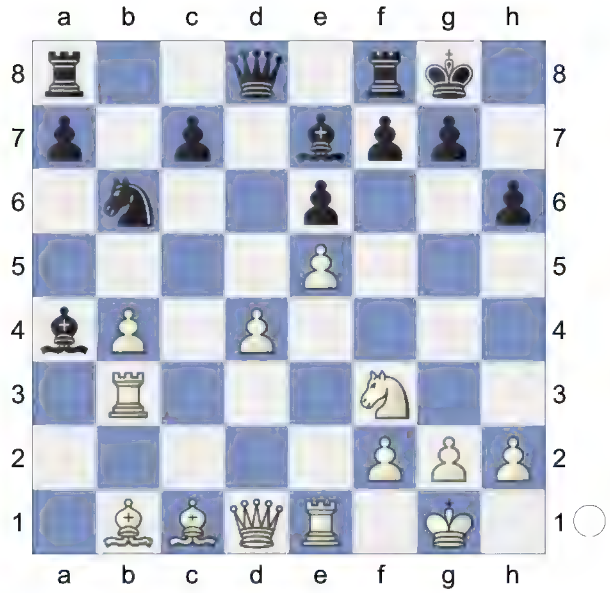
(Diagram)

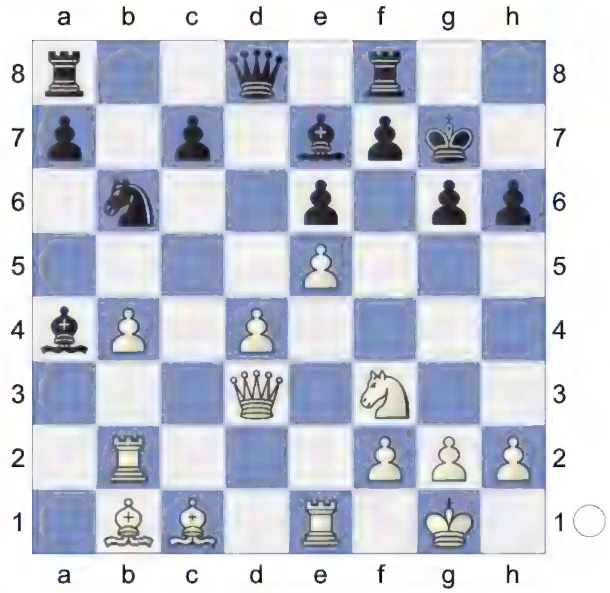
**20.h4!** h5! would now be deadly.

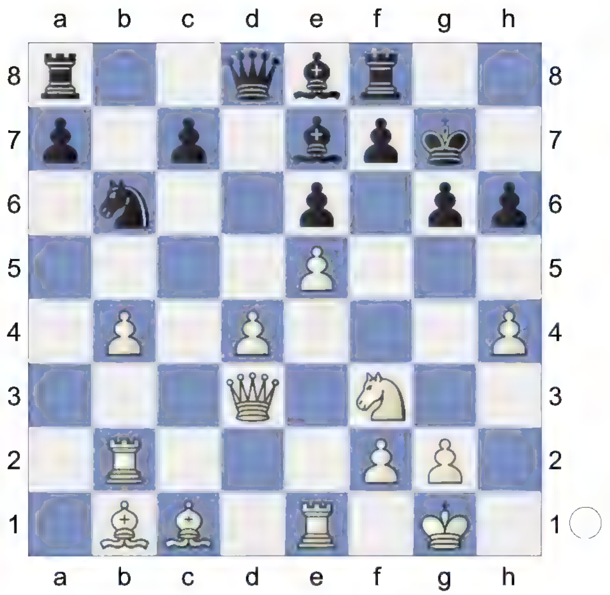
**20...Be8**

[ 20...Rh8 21.h5 ]

(Diagram)







**21.h5!** Threatens to win with hxg6. **21...Nd5 22.Qe4 Rh8** 1.23/19

[ 22...Bxb4? 23.Rxb4 Nxb4 24.hxg6 fxg6 25.Nh4+- ]

[ ⌓22...Rb8 0.78/20 ]

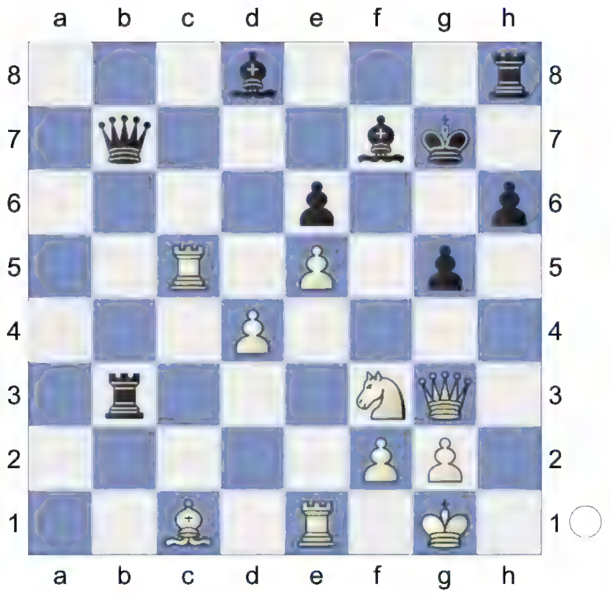
**23.hxg6 fxg6 24.Qg4 Bf7 25.Be4 Rb8 26.b5 Rb6 27.Ra2 Rxb5 28.Rxa7 g5 29.Qg3** 0.43/22

[ 29.Be3+- 1.65/20 ]

**29...Rb3** 1.39/21

[ 29...Bg6!± 0.43/22 ]

**30.Bxd5** Remove Defender **30...Qxd5 31.Rxc7 Bd8 32.Rc5 Qb7**



**33.d5?** -2.36/19 White does not recover from this. **33...Qb4-+ 34.dxe6 Bxe6**

[Not 34...Qxc5 35.exf7 Rb1 36.Ba3 Rxe1+ 37.Nxe1± ]

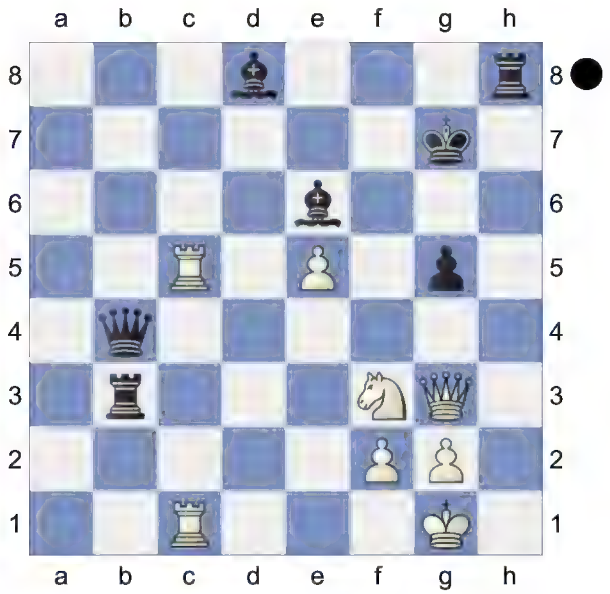
[ 34...Rxf3 35.Qxf3 Qxe1+ 36.Kh2= ]

**35.Bxg5 hxg5**

[But not 35...Bxg5 36.Rc7+ Kf8 37.Rd1-+ ]

**36.Rec1?** -8.17/21

[ 36.Rc7+ -3.07/18 Kf8 ( *36...Bxc7 37.Qxg5+ Kh7 38.Qh5+ Kg7 39.Qg5+ Kh7 40.Qh5+ Kg7 41.Qg5+=* ) 37.Rcc1 ]



**36...Qxc5!!** Deflection, Back Rank. Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.22 (precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Khismatullin,Denis Rimovich 2579**
■ **Radjabov,Teimour 2723**
Wch Blitz Samarkand (8) 29.12.2023
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3' **1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5** ...a6 is the strong threat. **7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.a3** White is slightly better.

[ 8.Be2 Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Na3 *( 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Qf4 Rb8 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rd1 f5 15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Bg5 Nb4 17.h4 Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Nc2 19.Rac1 Nxd4 20.Be4 c5 21.Qg4 Bxg5 22.hxg5 g6 23.g3 Qe7 24.Kg2 Kg8* 0-1 (65) Gutperle,M (2514)-7. ♗h4 b6 (2553) Garmisch Partenkirchen rapid 1994 (8)*)* 10...Bxa3 11.bxa3 Bb7 12.Be3 Ne7 13.Nd2 Ned5 14.Bf3 Nc3 15.Qc2 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 Ncd5 17.Nd2 Qe7 18.Nxc4 0-0 19.a4 Nxc4 20.Qxc4 Qa3 Novikov,S (2599)-Pires,A (2750) (ol) 73/(450) 1998 ]

**8...Nc6 9.Be3 Rb8N**

[ 9...Na5 10.Qc2 a6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Be2 Qd7 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Rb8 16.Rg3 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Nb3 19.Rxg7 Nxc1 20.Qxc1 c3 21.Qxc3 Nd5 22.Qc1 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Kf8 24.Rg4 (56) Chapter-Games Chapter 2 (3) ]

[ 9...Bb7 10.Be2 Qd7 11.0-0 Be7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qc2 Na5 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6. e5 Nd5 7 ]

**10.Qc2 Qd7 11.Nc3**

[ 11.Bxc4 Nxc4 12.Qxc4 Na5 13.Nxc7+ *( 13.Qxc7? Qxb5 14.a4 Qb7-+ )* 13...Kd8 14.Bg5+ Be7∓ ]

**11...Be7 12.Rd1 Ba6** 0.92/22

[ 12...Bb7± 0.52/24 ]

**13.h4 h6 14.Rh3 Nd5 15.Bc1** 0.28/19

[ 15.Ne4± 0.88/20 ]

**15...Na5** 1.29/20

[ 15...Nxc3!= 0.28/19 16.Qxc3 Qd5 ]

**16.Rg3± g6 17.Be2! Qc6 18.Kf1 Nxc3** 1.89/21

[ 18...Qb6± 1.30/20 ]

**19.Qxc3+-**

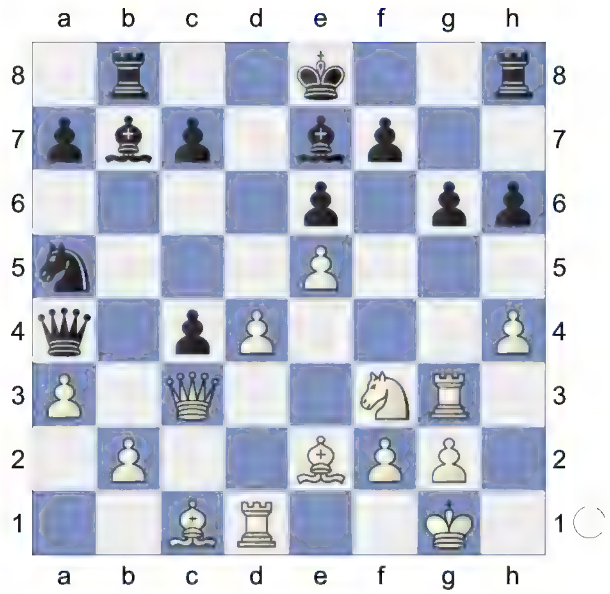
[ 19.bxc3?! Bb5± ]

**19...Qa4** 2.61/20

[ 19...Qd5 1.84/19 was necessary. 20.Kg1 Nc6 ]

**20.Kg1 Bb7** 2.07/21

[ ⌓20...Rb3 1.70/19 21.Qe1 Nc6 ]



**21.h5!** And now d5 would win. **21...g5 22.Nh2**

[ 22.Bd2 Nb3± ]

**22...Bd5 23.Ng4 Rb3**

(Diagram)

**24.Qc2** -0.18/18

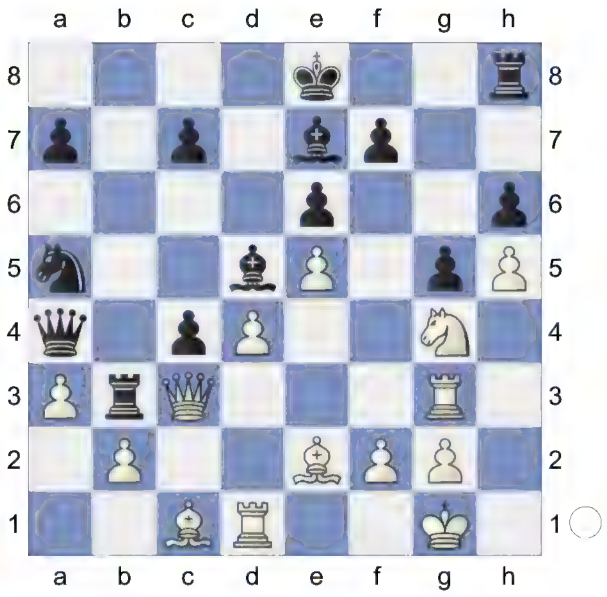
[ 24.Qe1!+- 1.74/20 ]

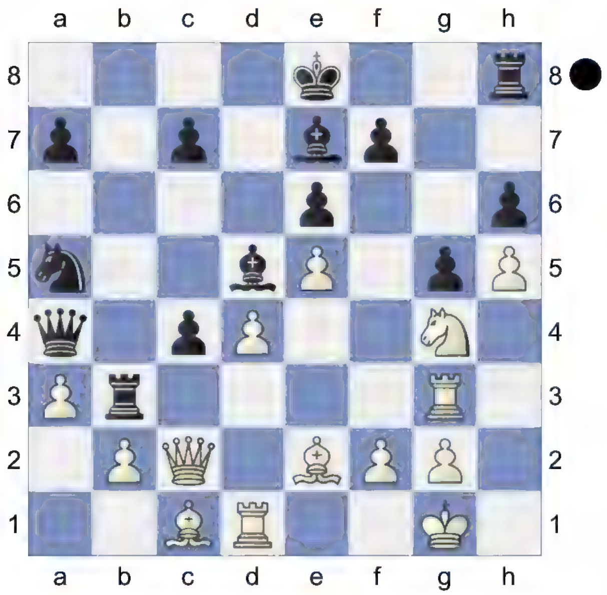
(Diagram)

**24...Rxa3!=** Discovered Attack **25.Qxa4+**

[ 25.Rc3 Qxc2 ]

**25...Rxa4 26.f4** -0.94/22





[ 26.Bd2= -0.26/23 keeps the balance. ]

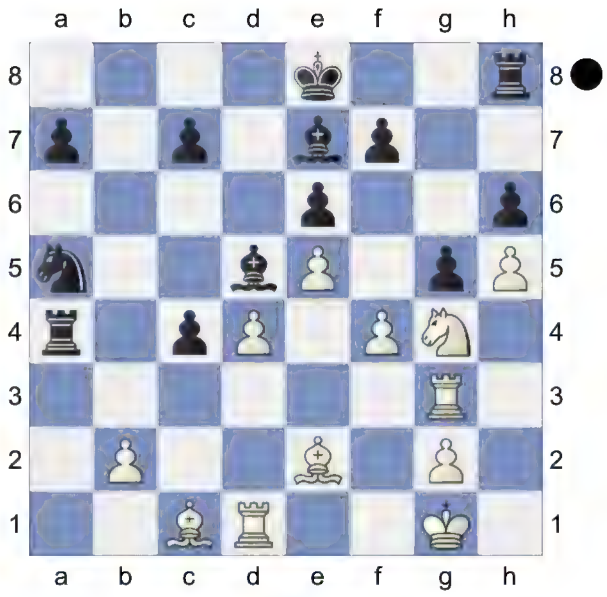
(Diagram)

**26...Nb3?** 3.69/22

[ 26...gxf4!∓ -0.94/22 27.Bxf4 Ra2 28.Nxh6 Rxb2 ]

**27.fxg5??** -2.19/22

[ 27.Rxb3!+- 3.69/22 was the only winning move. cxb3 28.Bb5+ Kf8 29.Bxa4 ]



**27...Nxc1-+**

[ 27...hxg5? 28.Rxb3 cxb3 29.Bb5+ c6 30.Bxa4+- ]

**28.Rxc1 Bxg5** This pair of bishops is nice.

[ 28...hxg5 29.b3 Ra3 *( 29...cxb3? 30.Bb5+ Kd8 31.Bxa4+- )* 30.Bxc4 Bxc4 31.Rxc4= ]

**29.Nf6+ Ke7 30.Rf1** -2.89/22

[ 30.Rxg5 -1.92/22 was forced. hxg5 31.Rc2 ]

**30...c6 31.Bf3?** -4.40/22

[ 31.Nxd5+ -2.32/22 cxd5 32.Rgf3 ]

**31...Rb4 32.Bxd5 cxd5 33.Ra1 Ra8**

[Stronger than 33...Rxb2 34.Rxa7+ Kd8 *( 34...Kf8 35.Rxg5 hxg5 36.h6± )* 35.Ra8+ *( 35.Rxf7?* is the wrong capture. *Rb1+ 36.Kh2 Bf4-+* Pin *)* 35...Kc7 36.Rxh8± ]

**34.Ra2 a5 35.Nh7 Bc1**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/Black=0.40

**0-1**

**D39**

□ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel 2690**
■ **Bindrich,Falko 2584**
Titled Tuesday intern op 06th Feb Early ..
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Inf 78/(32) **1.d4** Mikhalchishin,Adrian
**1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5**

[ 3...c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cxd5 exf4 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Rd1+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Rb8 14.b3 Rb4 15.g3 Ke7 16.Rd2 h5 17.Bg2 h4 18.0-0 (28) Georgiev,K (2677)-Topalov,V (2702) 78/(32) Sarajevo 2000 ]

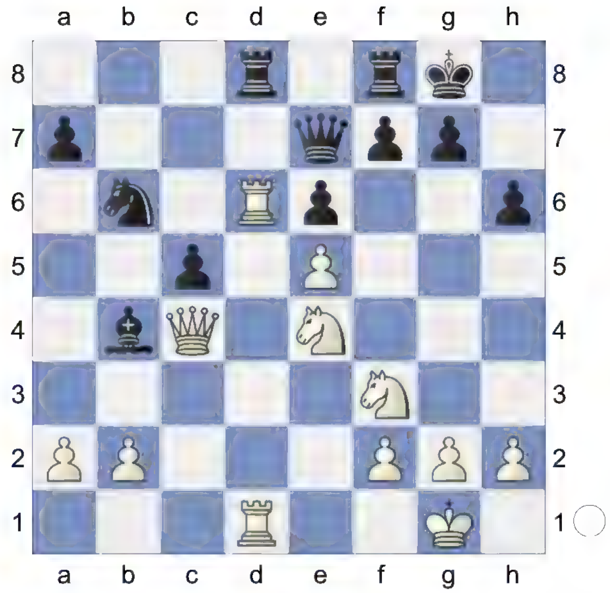
**4.Nf3 dxc4N**

[ 4...c5 5.Bf4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nbd7 7.Qa4 Bc5 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Nxc5 Nxc5 10.Qa3 b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.e3 Qe7 13.Bg3 Rfd8 The Semi Tarrasch-5.♗f4 5569 2021 ]

**5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.e5!** 10.e5 scores better than 10.Nb5. 10.e5 punktet besser als 10.Sb5. **10...Qd8 11.Ne4** White is slightly better. **11...0-0 12.Qe2! Bd7 13.Rfd1** White has more active pieces. The black rooks are passive. **13...Bc6 14.Nxd4N**

[Vorgänger: 14.Rxd4 0.31/24 14.a3 0.78 Qe7! 15.Rad1 Nd7 1.02/23 ( *15...Bxe4!± 0.57/21 16.Qxe4 Bc5* ) 16.Bb5± And now Bxc6 would win. Rad8 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Qc4 c5 1.24/25 ( *⌓18...Nb6* 0.86/24 *19.Qxc6 Rxd4 20.Nxd4 Rc8* ) 19.Rd6± Black must now prevent a3. Nb6

(Diagram)



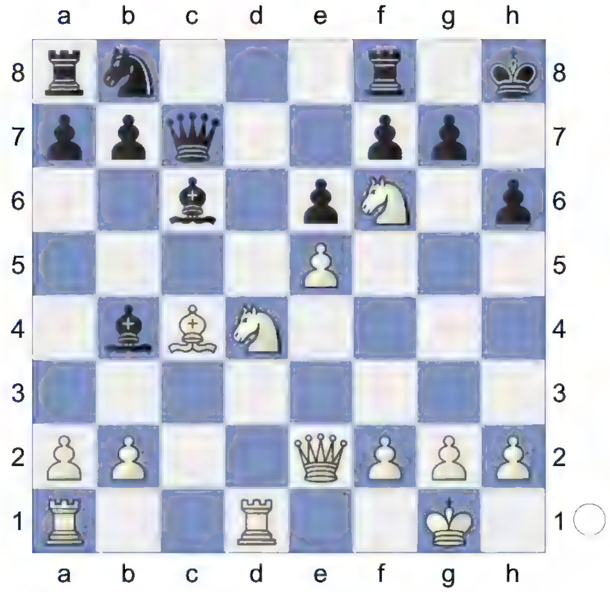
20.Qb5! 1-0 Stefanova,A (2506)-Movsesian,J (2341) EU-ch (Women) 12th 2011 (2) ]

**14...Qc7** 1.29/19

[Black should try 14...Qh4± 0.66/19 15.Nxc6 Nxc6 ]

**15.Nf6+** Excellent horsemanship.
**15...Kh8?** 4.72/19

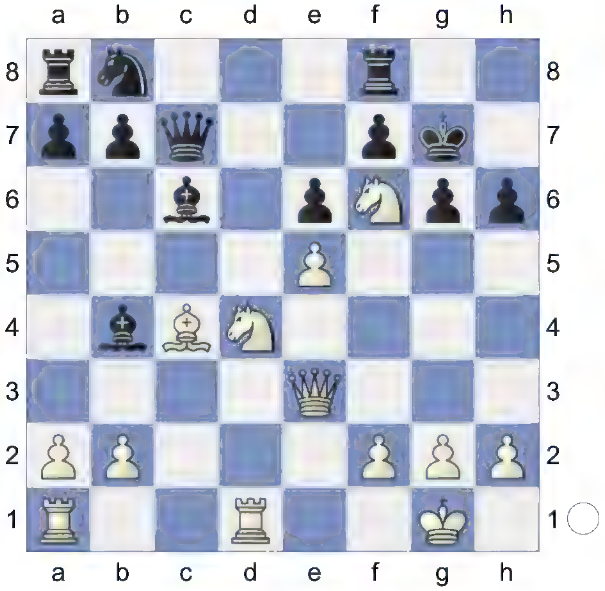
[ 15...gxf6± 1.39/21 is more resistant. 16.Qg4+ Kh7 17.Bd3+ f5 18.Nxf5 Qxe5 ( *18...exf5 19.Qxf5+ Kh8 20.Qh7#* ) 19.Qxb4 Nd7 ]



Black is weak on the light squares
**16.Qd3!+- g6**

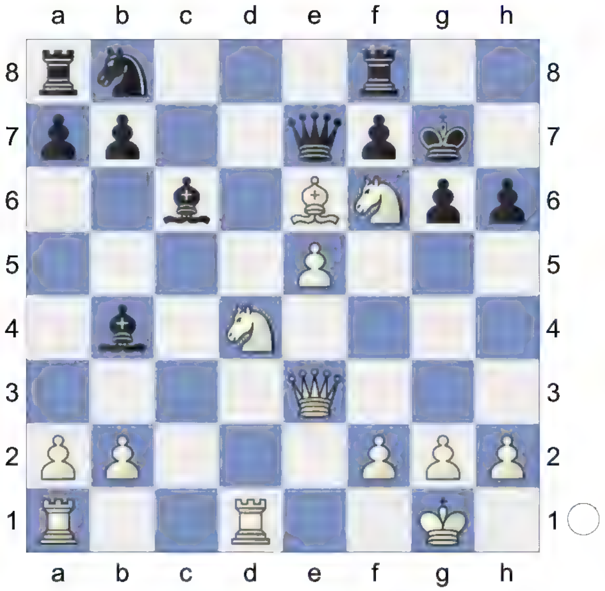
[ 16...gxf6 17.Qh3 ]

**17.Qe3 Kg7**



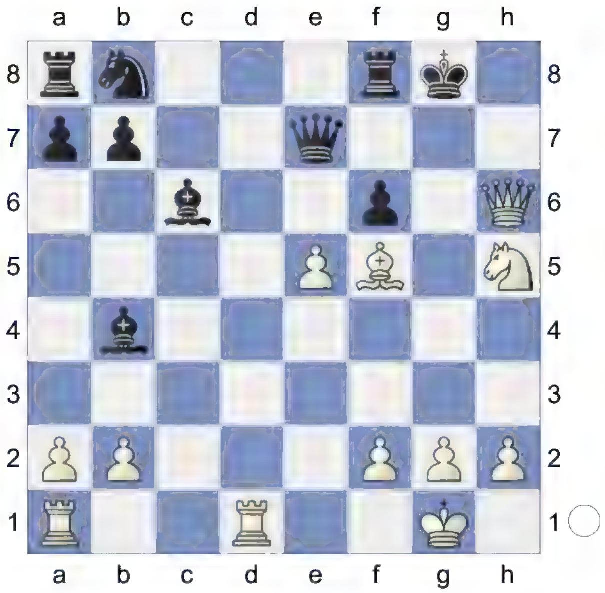
**18.Bxe6!** Nf5+! would kill now. **18...Qe7**

[ 18...Rh8 19.Qg3 ]



**19.Nf5+! gxf5 20.Qg3+ Kh8 21.Qf4 Kg7 22.Nh5+ Kh7 23.Bxf5+** White mates. **23...Kg8 24.Qxh6 f6**

(Diagram)



**25.Be6+!** Deflection. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening. Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.95

**1-0**

**D24**

□ **Sargsyan,Shant** **2634**
■ **Zilka,Stepan** **2615**
Wch Rapid Samarkand (9) 27.12.2023
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** Strongly threatening 0-0. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6** **9.Rd1!?** -0.14/22 Exploring less charted territory .Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[ 9.Ne5± 0.38/21 Rb8 10.d5 *( 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Qd7± )* 10...Nxd5 *( 10...exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5±* Decoy *)* 11.Nxd5 *( 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 exd5± )* 11...exd5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Qd7

14.Qxd5 ]

**9...0-0 10.Ne5 Rb8** 0.41/19

[ 10...Bd7= -0.18/20 ]

**11.Nxc6± bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2** Qe7N

[Vorgänger: 14...cxd4 15.Rxd4 h6 Dodges Bg5 16.Bf4 *( 16.h3 Qe7 17.a4 Bc5 18.Rd3* Chapter Vienna-5. e4 Bb4 7.0-0 Nf6!? 2020*)* 16...Bc5 17.Rd2 *( 17.Rd3 Nh5 18.Be3 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Qxe4 22.Rc3 Qxc2 23.Rxc2* Chapter-9.dxc5 10,Bg5*)* 17...Qe7 18.Ne4 Nxe4 *( 18...Bb6!? )* 19.Qxe4 Bd6 20.Rad1 Bb5 ½-½ Giri,A (2764)-Svidler,P (2723) Chess24 Banter Blitz Cup Final 2020 (1.9) ]

**15.Bg5 Bxc3** 0.73/24

[ 15...Bc6= 0.15/20 ]

**16.Qxc3±** aiming for dxc5. **16...h6 17.Bh4** 0.16/23

[ 17.Be3± 0.58/22 ]

**17...g5!= 18.Bg3↑** White has the initiative. **18...Ne4 19.Qc2 Nxg3 20.hxg3 cxd4** 0.87/19

[ 20...Qf6= 0.03/24 keeps the balance. ]

**21.Rxd4± c5 22.Rd2** White is more active. **22...Bc6** 1.26/20

[ ⌓22...Bb5 0.80/23 ]

**23.a4 Rfd8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Rd1** Inhibits Qd4. **25...Qf6 26.b3 Rd8 27.a5 Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1+-**

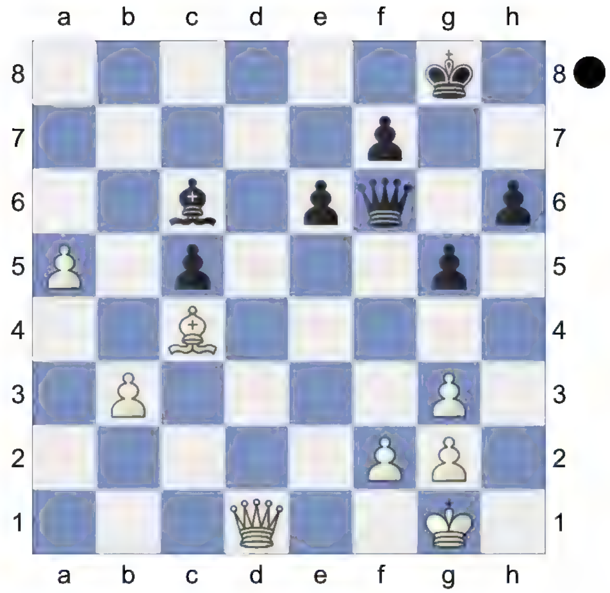
(Diagram)

Endgame. Qd6 is the strong threat. KQB-KQB **28...Kg7?** 4.24/22 Loses the game.

[ 28...Qe5± 1.47/24 29.a6 Qe4 ]

**29.a6 Qe5 30.a7 Qe4** 4.42/21

[ 30...h5 3.08/20 was called for.



31.Qd8 *( 31.Qxh5 Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxa7+- )* 31...Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxa7 33.Qxg5+ Kf8 34.Qh6+ *( 34.Qxh5 Qb6± )* 34...Ke7 35.Bxe6 *( 35.Qxh5 Qb6± )* 35...h4 ]

**31.Bf1?** 1.72/20

[ 31.Qa1+ 4.42/21 Qd4 32.Qxd4+ *( 32.a8Q Bxa8 33.Qxa8 Qd1+ 34.Bf1 Qxb3+- )* 32...cxd4 33.b4 ]

**31...Qb4?** 4.60/20

[ 31...Qd5 1.72/20 32.Qa1+ Kg8 ]

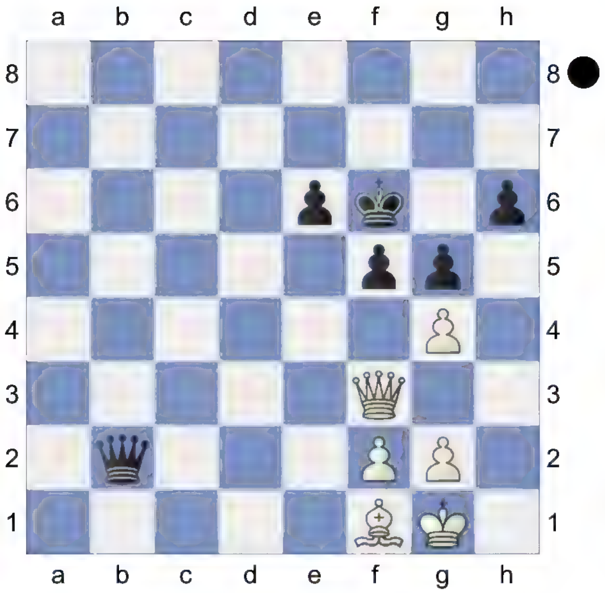
**32.Qa1+** White is clearly winning. **32...f6 33.a8Q Bxa8 34.Qxa8 Qxb3 35.Qa7+ Kg6 36.Qxc5 f5 37.Qc6 Kf6 38.Qd7 Kg6 39.Qc6 Kf6 40.Qf3 Qb2 41.g4**

(Diagram)

Hoping for gxf5. **41...Qd4 42.gxf5 exf5 43.Qc6+ Kg7 44.Qe6 Qf6 45.Qd7+ Qf7 46.Qxf7+ Kxf7 47.Be2 Kg6 48.Kh2 h5 49.f4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.28 (precise) /Black=0.48

**1-0**



**D24**

☐ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2728**
■ **Pichot,Alan** **2638**
Airthings Masters Play In rapid (5)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nfd7 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.a3N**

[ 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 *( 10.b3 cxb3 11.Qxb3 a6 12.Nc3 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 Qxd4 14.Rd1 Qb4* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 10...0-0 11.Qf4 Rb8 12.Nc3 *( 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Nb4 14.Nc3 Bb7 15.a3 Bxf3 16.axb4 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Nd5 18.Nf4 Rxb4* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 12...f5 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rd1 Nb4 15.b3 cxb3 16.axb3 a6 17.Bc4 Nc2 18.Ra2 Nb4 19.Ra1 Nc2 20.Ra2 Nb4 21.Re2 a5 22.d5 exd5 23.e6 Bd6 (38) 10 Best Games of the Golden S-Ding,L ]

**9...Bb7!N** A relevant novelty. Eine relevante Neuerung.

[Vorgänger: 9...Rb8 10.Be3 Be7 11.Qc2 Ba6 *( 11...Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2* Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗g5 c6 393 (2539) TCh-RUS Sochi RUS 2005*)* 12.Nc3 Na5 13.Rd1 Qd7 14.h4 h6 1.73/22 *( 14...Nd5± 0.63/20 )* 15.Rh3 0.70/19 *( 15.d5+- 1.73/22 )* 15...Bb7 1.69/18 0-1 (39) Yilmaz,M (2631)-Maghsoodloo,P (2699) Chess.com

INT 2022 *( 15...Nd5⩲ 0.70/19 )*]

**10.Nc3 Be7 11.h4** -0.01/22

[ 11.Be3⩲ 0.43/21 ]

**11...Qd7 12.Be3 Na5 13.Qc2 f5 14.exf6 gxf6 15.Rd1 0-0-0 16.Bf4** -0.40/21

[ 16.Rh3= 0.22/20 ]

**16...Rhg8** -0.01/20

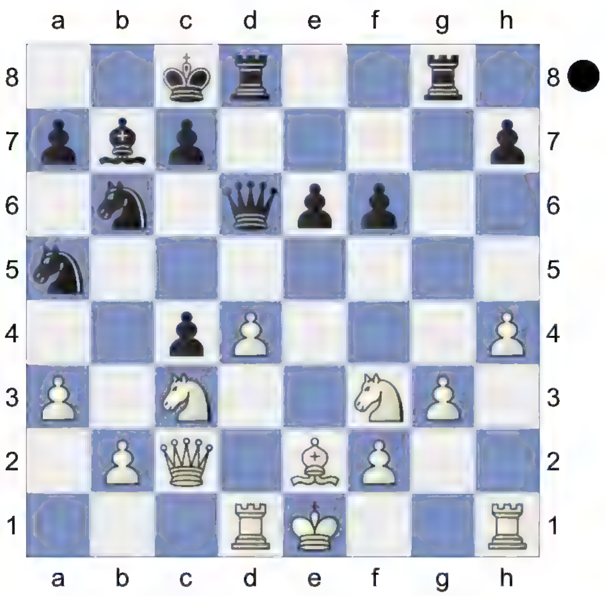
[ 16...Bd6∓ -0.40/21 was preferrable. 17.Bxd6 cxd6 ]

**17.Bg3** -0.84/23

[ 17.Qxh7= -0.01/20 Rxg2 18.d5 ]

**17...Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.g3** -1.87/20

[White should play 19.Ne4∓ -0.57/19 Qf4 20.Nc5 Rxg2 21.Qxh7 ]



Loses the game. **19...Rxg3!-+ 20.Ne4**

[ 20.fxg3 Qxg3+ ]

**20...Bxe4 21.Qxe4 Rg7 22.h5 Nc6 23.Qh4 f5 24.h6 Rg4 25.Qf6** -5.28/20

[ 25.Qh2 -3.21/20 was called for. ]

**25...Nd5**

[ 25...Nxd4 26.Rxd4 *( 26.Nxd4 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Qxd4-+ )* 26...Rxd4 27.Nxd4 Qxd4 28.Qxe6+ Kb8 29.0-0 Qxb2 30.Bxc4∓ ]

**26.Qf7 Rf8 27.Qh5** -7.14/17

[ ⌓27.Qxh7 -4.06/19 Nf6 28.Qg7 Rxg7 *( 28...Nxd4? 29.Rxd4 Rxd4 30.Nxd4+- )* 29.hxg7 ]

**27...Nf4** Black is clearly winning. **28.Qh2 Qd5 29.Ng1 Rh4** Decoy **30.Qxh4 Ng2+** A dynamic duo of knights.

[ 30...Nxd4? perishes. 31.Qxf4 Qxh1 32.Qxd4+- ]

**31.Kf1 Nxh4 32.Rxh4 Rg8 33.Nf3 Rg4** aiming for ...Rxh4. **34.Rxg4 fxg4 35.Ng1 Qf5 36.Bxc4 g3 37.Rd2 Qf4 38.Bxe6+ Kb8 39.Re2 Nxd4 40.Nh3 g2+** Decoy.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.52/ Black=0.23 (precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Ju,Wenjun** **2549**

■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham** **2740**

Tata Steel-A 86th (10) 24.01.2024

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4** 6 **Nf6** 25 **2.c4** 4 **e6** 4 **3.Nf3** 11 **d5** 6 **4.Nc3** 10 **dxc4** 4 **5.e4** 25 **b5** 7 Deflection **6.Nxb5** 0.09/21 18

[ 6.e5!⩲ 0.46/23 Nd5 7.Nxb5 ]

**6...Nxe4=** 16 **7.Qa4** 9 Against Bb4+ **7...c6** 42 **8.Nc3** 18 **Nxc3** 6 **9.bxc3** 3 **Ba6** 8 **10.Bxc4** 6

[ 10.Ne5 with more complications. Be7 11.Ba3 0-0 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Be2 ]

**10...Bxc4** 5 **11.Qxc4** 3 **Bd6** 1:40 **12.0-0** 5 **Qc7N** 2:07

[ 12...0-0 13.Rb1 *( 13.g3 Qa5 14.Be3 Qd5 15.Qe2 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Rab1 Nb6 19.c4 Bc7 20.Rdc1 Rac8 21.Qf3 Qg6 22.Qxc6 Bxg3 23.Qg2 Bh4 24.Qxg6 hxg6 25.Nf3 Bf6 26.c5 Nd5 27.Rb7 a6* ↑-↑ (68) 15. ♘d4 d5

16.e5 ♘e4 15226 (2468)-Johnsen,S (2483) 39th Rilton Cup 2009 (7)) 13...Qc7 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.c4 c5 16.d5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Nb6 18.Qd3 Rad8 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.Nxb5 #7 ]

**13.Rd1** 1:45 **0-0** 5:07 **14.Qd3** 3 **Nd7** 2:24 **15.c4** 3:08 **c5** 18:34 **16.Be3** 22:45 **Rfd8** 5:51 **17.dxc5** 1:59 **Bxc5** 7:18 **18.Bxc5** 12:16 **Nxc5** 7 **19.Qe2** 12 **f6** 11:15 **20.Nd4** 3:39 **e5** 1:01 **21.Nf5** 1:37 **Ne6** 7:08 **22.Qg4** 21 **Kh8** 1:32 **23.h3** 1:03 **g6** 4:25 **24.Ne3** 9 **Nd4** 4:10 **25.Nd5** 11:20 **Qg7** 1:56 **26.Qe4** 0.09/24 3:09

[ 26.Rab1⩲ 0.47/22 ]

**26...Rac8** 40 **27.Rac1** 15 **f5** 3:17 **28.Qd3** -0.30/19 3:42

[ 28.Qe1 0.07/21 is more appropriate. ]

**28...Ne6** 0.52/20 2:09

[ 28...g5!= -0.30/19 ]

**29.Qa3** 5:54 **e4** 0.94/20 8:07

[ 29...Nd4= 0.18/18 remains equal. ]

**30.Ne7±** 5:51 **Ra8** 11:01 **31.Rxd8+** 11:46 **Rxd8** 3:16 **32.Rb1** 7

[Much weaker is 32.Qxa7 Re8 33.Nc6 Qxa7 34.Nxa7 Ra8∓ ]

**32...Nf4** 4:32 **33.Qxa7** 3:19 Strongly threatening g3. **33...Qd4** 3:49

(Diagram)

**34.Qxd4+** 0.89/5 6:08

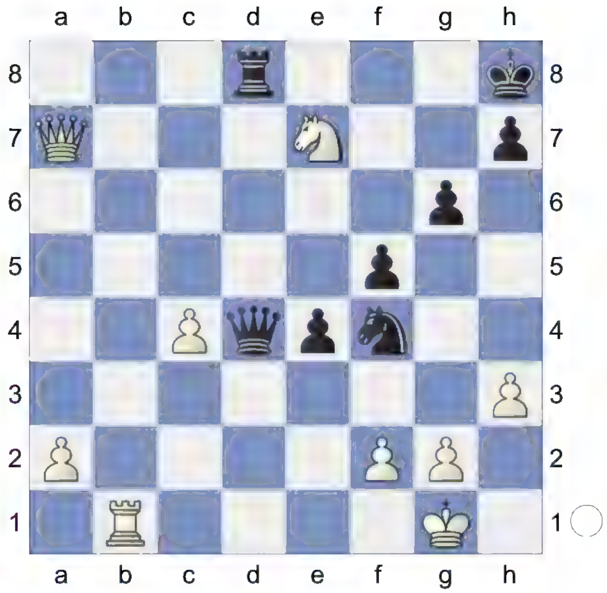
[ ⌓34.Qc7! 1.52/24 Ne2+ 35.Kh2 ]

**34...Rxd4** 5 Endgame. KRN-KRN **35.Rb8+** 0.03/17 16

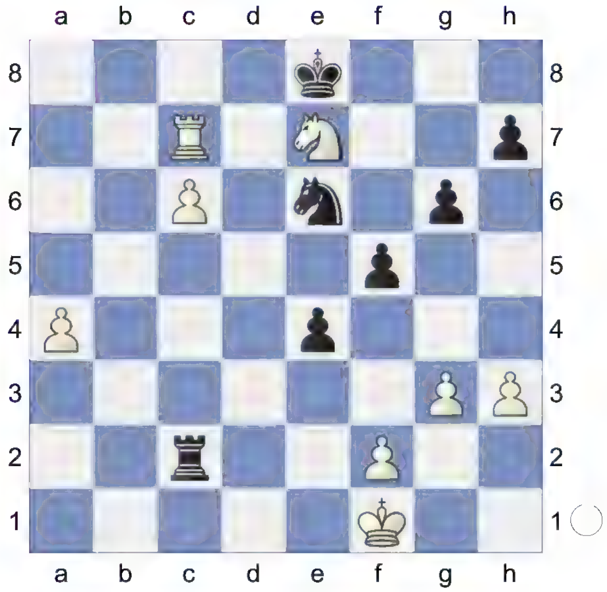
[Better is 35.c5± 0.89/27 ]

**35...Kg7=** 6 **36.Rb7** 2 **Kf8** 2:43 **37.c5** 4 c6 is the strong threat. **37...Rc4** 16 **38.c6** 27 **Ne6** 25 **39.g3** 0.61/29 7:18

[ 39.a4= 0.10/23 f4 40.Nd5 Rxc6 41.Rb6 ( *41.Rxh7 Rd6=* ) 41...Rxb6 42.Nxb6 ]



**39...Nd8⩲** 1:48 **40.Rc7** 1:47 aiming for h4. **40...Rc1+** 1:05 **41.Kg2!** 50:05 Threatens to win with h4. White is more active. **41...Rc2** 3:20 **42.Kf1!** 0 h4 would now be deadly. **42...Ke8** 10:13 **43.a4** 0 And now a5 would win. **43...Ne6** 1:43



**44.Rb7** 0 Hoping for a5. **44...Kd8** 6:15 **45.Rd7+** 0 **Ke8** 1 **46.Ng8** 0.04/27 0

[ 46.Rb7!⩲ 0.67/21 f4 47.gxf4 Nxf4 48.Kg1 Nxh3+ 49.Kg2 ]

**46...Rxc6** 16 **47.Nf6+** 0 **Kf8** 2

**48.Nxh7+** 0 **Ke8** 2 **49.Nf6+** 0 **Kf8** 1 **50.Rd1** 0 The position is equal. **50...Ra6** 3:08 **51.Nd7+** 0 **Ke7** 6 **52.Ne5** 0 **Kf6** 51 **53.Nd7+** 0 **Ke7** 2:00 **54.Ne5** 0 **Kf6** 2

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Postny,Evgeny** **2600**
■ **Lupulescu,Constantin** **2588**
FRA-chT Top 16 GpA (7.2) 05.06.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.e5 Qd8 11.Ne4** White has compensation. White has an edge. **11...0-0 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Rfd1** 13.Rfd1 is better than 13.Rad1. 13.Tfd1 ist besser als 13.Tad1. **13...Qa5 14.a3 Rd8 15.Ng3** -0.27/23

[ 15.b4± 0.33/18 Qb6 16.Qd3 ]

**15...Bd7 16.b4 Qc7N** 0.09/19

[Vorgänger: 16...Qb6 With the idea ...Bc6. 17.Rxd4 Be8 18.Rg4 Nd7 19.Nh5 g6 20.Qe4 a5 21.Nd4 -1.62/22 *(White should try 21.Qf4∓ -0.47/18 )* 21...Bg5 -0.73/18 *( 21...Kh7!-+ -1.62/22 22.Rb1 axb4 23.axb4 Qc7 )* 22.h4∓ gxh5 23.hxg5 hxg4? -2.71/17 *( 23...Nxe5∓ -0.39/21 24.Qxe5 hxg4 25.Nxe6 fxe6 )* 24.gxh6 ½-½ Sokolov,I (2590)-Van Foreest,L (2500) Groningen University m 2018 (3) ]

[ 16...Qb6 -0.30/22 is more appropriate. ]

**17.Rac1!=** Threatens to win with Bxe6!

**17...Bc6** 0.37/21

[ 17...Qb6= 0.00/22 should be considered. ]

**18.Nd2** -1.05/20

[Much weaker is 18.Rxd4 Bxf3 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8∓ ]

[ 18.Nxd4± 0.37/21 keeps the upper hand. Bg5 19.Rc3 ]

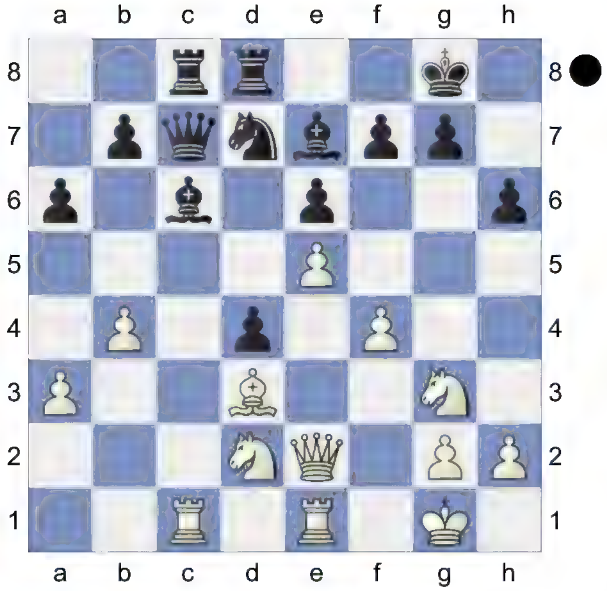
**18...a6!∓ 19.Bd3 Nd7! 20.f4 Rac8**

[ 20...Nb6 keeps more tension. 21.Qg4 Kh8 22.Re1 Nd5 ]

**21.Re1** -1.33/21

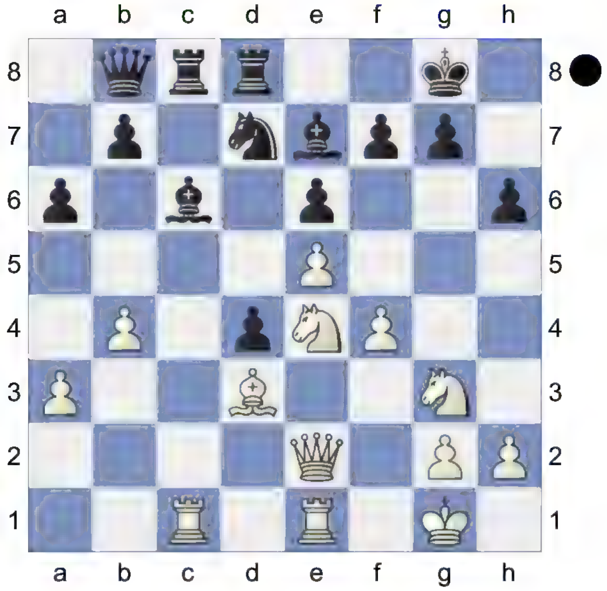
[ ⌓21.Rf1 -0.93/19 ]

(Diagram)



**21...Qb8! 22.Nde4** -1.51/20

[Better is 22.Kh1 -1.14/19 ]



**22...Nb6! 23.Nh5 Bxe4 24.Bxe4 Rxc1** -1.48/16

[ 24...Kh8-+ -1.88/21 25.Qf3 Nd5 ]

**25.Rxc1 Kh8 26.Rd1** -2.25/20

[ 26.h3∓ -1.33/21 was necessary. ]

**26...g6 27.Ng3 Nd5** And now ...Nc3 would win. **28.Qf3 Nc3** Inhibits Ne2. **29.Rd3 Nxe4 30.Nxe4 Qc7 31.h3 Kg7 32.Kh2 h5 33.Nd2 b6 34.Qe4** -2.14/22

[ 34.Qd1 -1.74/18 is a better defense. ]

**34...a5-+ 35.bxa5 bxa5 36.Nf3 Qc4 37.h4 a4 38.Ng5 Qd5 39.Qe2?** -4.41/22 Now White is beyond hope.

[ 39.Qxd5∓ -1.57/21 was the only defense. Rxd5 40.g3 ]

**39...Bxg5 40.hxg5** Endgame. KQR-KQR **40...Rc8 41.Qb2 Rc4** Black is clearly winning. **42.Qa2 Qc6** White must now prevent ...Rc2. **43.Qf2 Rc2 44.Qf3 Qxf3 45.Rxf3** KR-KR **45...Rc3** ...Rxf3 would now be deadly. **46.Rf2 Rxa3 47.Rd2 d3 48.Kg3 Rb3 49.Kf3 a3 50.Ke4 Rb2 51.Rxd3 a2**

[Weaker is 51...Rxg2 52.Rxa3 Rh2 53.Rf3∓ ]

**52.Ra3 Rb4+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/Black=0.14 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Radjabov,Teimour** **2753**
■ **Firouzja,Alireza** **2793**
(ct) 154/143 2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be3** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be2 Be7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3**

[ 11.a3 Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qc2 Na5 14.Rad1 Rab8 15.Nd2 Bc6 16.Nde4 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Na4 20.Bd2 Nb3 21.Be3 Na5 22.Rb1 Rb7 23.Bd2 Nb3 24.Rxc4 Nb6 25.Rc3 Nd5 1-0 (48) 3.Bh4 Nh6! (2619)-Lirindzakis, T (2493) Paris Immopar rapid 1992

(4) ]

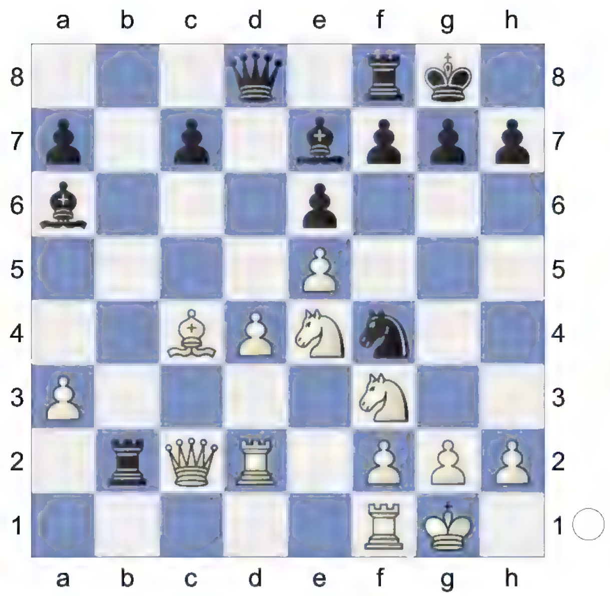
**11...Rb8N**

[ 11...Bb7 12.Na4 *( 12.Qb1 Rb8 13.Ne4 Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6 25.h4 h5 26.g3 Qb5* 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4. h3 ♘f6 5.♘f3 00 6.♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 (5)*)* 12...Ba6 13.Rc1 Nb4 14.a3 *( 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.dxc5 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 N6d5 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Rxc4 Rfb8 19.a3 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Nd5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 14...Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd5 19.b4 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ]

**12.a3 Na5 13.Qc2 Nd5 14.Rad1 Ba6 15.Bd2 Nb3 16.Ne4 Nxd2 17.Rxd2**

[ 17.Nexd2 Rxb2 18.Qxb2 c3= ]

**17...Nf4 18.Bxc4 Rxb2!**



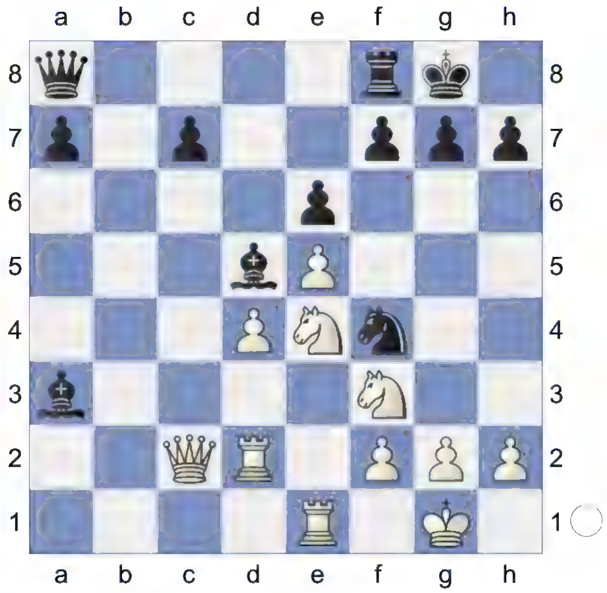
Deflection **19.Qxb2 Bxc4 20.Rc1** -0.12/24

[ 20.Ra1 0.25/23 is superior. ]

**20...Bd5** This pair of bishops is nice.

[ 20...Nd3!? 21.Qc2 Nxc1 22.Qxc4 Qd5 23.Qxd5 *( 23.Qxc1 Qxe4 24.h3 Rb8= )* 23...exd5⩲ ]

**21.Re1 Qa8 22.Qc2** Threatens to win with h4. **22...Bxa3**



And now ...Bb4 would win. **23.Nfg5** Intending Nf6+! and mate.

[But not 23.Neg5 Ng6 24.Re3 *( 24.Qxc7? h6-+ )* 24...Bb4∓ ]

**23...Ng6!** Hoping for ...h6. **24.h4!** h5 is the strong threat. White has more active pieces.

[ 24.Qxc7? is the wrong capture. h6 25.Ra1 hxg5 *( 25...Bxe4 26.Nxe4 Qxe4 27.Qc2∓ )* 26.Nxg5 Qc8-+ ]

**24...Bb4 25.h5!↑** White has good play. Really sharp! **25...Bxd2** 0.84/24

[ 25...Bxe4⩲ 0.47/24 26.Nxe4 Nh4 ]

**26.Qxd2± h6! 27.hxg6 hxg5 28.gxf7+ Kxf7 29.Nxg5+ Ke8 30.f3 Kd7 31.Ne4** 0.41/19

[ 31.Ra1± 0.89/18 ]

**31...Bxe4⩲ 32.Rxe4** Endgame. KQR-KQR **32...Qd5 33.Qb4 Rg8 34.Qa4+ Qc6** The position is equal. **35.Qxa7** Qa3 would now be deadly.

[ 35.Qa2 simplifies g5 36.Qd2 Qd5

37.Qd3 ]

**35...Ra8 36.Qc5 Qxc5 37.dxc5=** KR-KR **37...Kc6 38.Rg4 Kxc5 39.Rxg7 Kd5 40.Rxc7 Kxe5 41.Rf7 Kd6 42.Kf2 e5 43.g4 Ke6 44.Rf5 Ra3 45.Rf8** Black must now prevent Kg3. **45...Ke7 46.Rb8 Kf7 47.Rc8 Ke7 48.Rc2 Kf6 49.Re2 Rb3 50.Re3 Rb2+ 51.Kg3 Rc2 52.Ra3 Rb2 53.Ra6+ Kf7 54.Rh6 Rb3 55.Kf2 Ra3 56.Rb6 Ke7 57.Ke2 Rc3 58.Kf2 Ra3 59.Rb2 Kf6 60.Re2 Rb3 61.Re3 Rb2+ 62.Kg3 Rc2 63.Rb3 Ra2 64.Rb6+ Kf7 65.g5 Ra4 66.Rf6+ Ke7 67.Rh6**

[ 67.Rf5!? Ke6□ 68.Rf6+ Ke7 69.Rh6= ]

**67...Kf7 68.Rh4 Ra5 69.Kg4 Ra4+ 70.Kh5 Ra3! 71.f4 exf4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D24**

☐ **Carlsen,Magnus 2847**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof 2729**

FIDE World Cup (55.1) 01.08.2021

*[Justin Tan,MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qe2** A fresh try from Carlsen, who has previously tested Duda in 8. Qa4+. White has compensation. White has an edge.

[ 8.Qa4+ keeps more tension. Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 10.d5 ]

**8...0-0 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Be7 11.Rad1 Nc6N** White gains a slight advantage after this move.

[ Black has a solid defence in 11...Nbd7 12.Rfe1 ( *12.Ne5 Nb6 13.Bd3 Nfd5 14.Bg3 Bd7 15.Ne4 Ba4 16.Rc1 Nd7 17.b3 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bc6 19.Rfd1 a5 20.a4 Qe8 21.h4 Rd8 22.h5 Nb4 23.Bb1 Kh8 24.Bf4 Rg8 25.Bd2 Rd5 26.Bxb4 axb4* (38) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 12 *)* 12...Nb6 13.Bb3 Hoping for d5! Nfd5 14.Bxe7 ( *14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxh4 16.Bb3 Bf6 17.Qe4 a5* Model Game For White-De Vries,E Menorca op 2nd 2023 *)* 14...Nxe7 15.Qd3 c6 16.Bc2 f5= That is, if we let go of our biases against bad bishops! The point is that the only tangible weakness in Black's position is the e6-pawn, but if White ever takes it, the bad bishop will be traded off and the resulting position will be perfectly sound for Black. ]

**12.Rfe1 Nd5 13.Bxd5 Bxh4 14.Bxc6**

[Better is 14.Bb3 d5 is the strong threat. Be7 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Bd6 17.Qd3 Bg4! 18.Bc2 f5! 19.h3 ( *19.Nxc7 Qxc7 20.Qxd6 Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Rad8=* ) 19...Bxf3! 20.Qxf3 with a slight advantage. I noticed that Leela gives equality here, so I thought it was worth checking a bit further, but in this case it seems that Stockfish evaluates the position better than its rival:. And now Ne3! would win. Qg5 21.Qb3 Kh8 22.Qxb7 Ne5 aiming for ...Rab8. 23.Qb3!± ]

**14...bxc6 15.Qc4**

[ 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.Qe5 Qe7 17.Qa5↑ is similar. ]

**15...Rb8 16.Nxh4**

[ 16.Qxc6? Bb7 ( *16...Rxb2 17.Nxh4 Qxh4 18.Qf3∓* ) 17.Qc4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qg5+ ( *18...Rxb2 19.Re2∓* ) 19.Kf1 Qf4∓ ( *19...Rxb2 20.Re2∓* )]

**16...Qxh4** The position is equal. **17.b3 Rd8**

[It was also possible to play 17...Qe7 18.Qxc6 Bb7 In this version White is prevented from playing 19.Qc5?! due to 19...Qxc5 20. dxc5 Bc6. 19.Qa4 Qg5 20.d5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 exd5 With a limited number of pieces on the board, I imagine Black should be able to maintain the balance here. ]

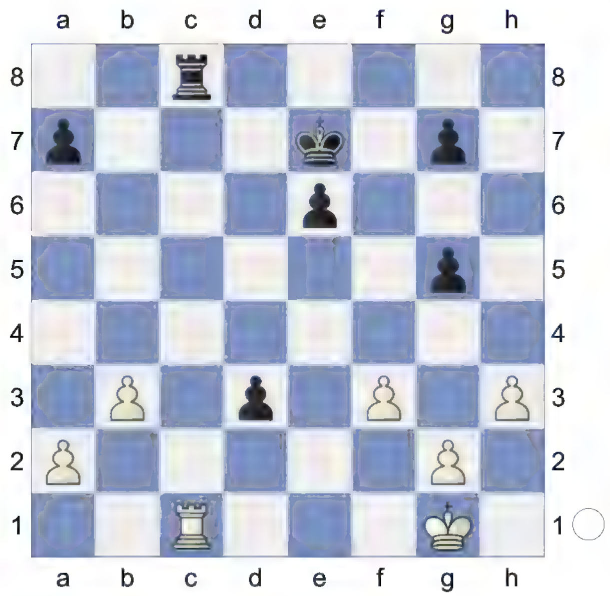
**18.Qxc6**

[ 18.Re5 simplifies Qe7 19.Qc5 Qxc5 20.Rxc5 Rd6 21.Ne4 ]

**18...Bb7 19.Qc5 Qg5! 20.Qxg5 hxg5 21.h3 Bd5 22.Re5 f6 23.Nxd5**

[ Since the forcing continuation in the game didn't amount to much, it would have been slightly better to keep the tension with 23.Re2 ]

**23...fxe5=** Endgame. KRR-KRN **24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Nc6 Ra8 26.Nxd8 Rxd8** KR-KR **27.Rc1 exd4 28.Rxc7 d3 29.Rc1!** next f3 is good for White. **29...Ke7 30.f3** Threatens to win with Kf2. **30...Rc8!**



The most direct route to a draw. Promotion **31.Rd1**

[ 31.Rxc8? is the wrong capture. d2 32.Rc7+ ( *32.Rd8? Kxd8 33.h4 d1Q+-+* ) 32...Ke8 33.Rxa7 ( *33.Rc8+? Kd7-+* ) 33...d1Q+ ( *33...d1B? 34.Rxg7 Kd8 35.b4+-* ) 34.Kh2 Qd6+ 35.Kh1 Qd4-+ ]

**31...Rc2 32.Rxd3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

□ **Martirosyan,Haik M** **2666**
■ **Pichot,Alan** **2641**
Tashkent President op 2nd (6) 10.09.22
*[Nigel Davies,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6** Flear,Glenn: 'The main theme is that one accepts broken pawns but hopes that the forward c-pawn will have a cramping effect for quite some time.' **8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3** Flear,Glenn: 'In previous ChessPublishing featured games White has delayed placing his bishop on e3 and Black has then continued with an early ...Rb8 (see for example Moranda, W - Maghsoodloo, P European online rapid 2021 in the archives) . Pichot soon shows his intention to employ a different plan.' **9...Be7**

[ In the following couple of games Black is able to obtain an acceptable middlegame, which demonstrates that there is more than one way for him to handle his position: 9...Bb4+ 10.Nc3 a5 11.a3 ( *11.0-0 a4!?* ) 11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 a4 13.Nd2 Na5! (Black locks up the queenside, so

White switches his attention to the other wing) 14.Bf3 Rb8 15.Ne4 Bb7 16.Bg5 Qc8! 17.h4∞ 0.00/20 Martinovic, Sa - Warmerdam, M Terme Catez 2021, with sharp play in prospect. *( 17.0-0⩲* 0.45/22 *)*]

[ 9...Bb7 10.a3 (one could try and do without this move, but it has its points) Qd7 11.Nc3 Ne7 12.0-0 Nf5 13.Qc1 *( 13.b3!?* has a certain logic now that one of the black knights has vacated the wing *)* 13...Be7 14.Rd1 0-0 15.d5! Nxe3 16.dxe6 Qxe6 0.31/20 *( 16...Qc6!=* -0.19/23 *17.Qxe3 fxe6 )* 17.Qxe3⩲ Qg6⇄ Santos Latasa, J - Yuffa, D Linares 2022. ]

**10.a3** Flear,Glenn: 'A calming move that stops Black using the b4-square (for example for the typical manoeuvre ...Nc6-b4-d5).'

[More aggressive is 10.h4 a favourite of Gukesh e.g.

**A)** 10...Bb7 11.h5 Qd7 12.Nc3 -0.15/19 *( 12.Rc1* 0.28/20 deserves consideration.*)* 12...Nb4 0.57/20 *( 12...0-0-0=* -0.15/19 *)* 13.Kf1⩲ 0-0-0 14.b3! (with Black's king 'unsportingly' going the other way, this is the logical method to pursue one's attacking ambitions) cxb3 15.axb3 Kb8 16.Na4 0.19/16 *( 16.Rh3⩲* 0.57/20 *)* 16...N6d5 Gukesh, D - Abdusattorov, N Warsaw rapid 2021, when Black digs in, but the coming use of the c5-square should favour White somewhat;

**B)** 10...Nb4! (exploiting the absence of a2-a3) 11.Nc3 N4d5 12.Bd2 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bb7 *( 13...c5!?⇄* puts more pressure on the centre*)* 14.h5 h6 ( Stockfish prefers the radical *14...f5!?* which changes the pawn structure quite early, i.e. with both kings unsure of their final destinations*)* 15.Rh3 Qd7 16.Rg3 Bf8 1.45/21 *( 16...g5!? 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Rxg6 0-0-0* would offer fair compensation for the pawn as then Black is the better organized*; 16...g5⩲* 0.57/24 *)* 17.Be3 Bd5⩲ Gukesh, D - Praggnanandhaa, R Gelfand online rapid 2021, and Black is solid, but rather passive. ]

[ A high-level encounter from earlier this year went 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3 Rb8 12.a3 *(*instead *12.b3* featured in Moranda, W - Maghsoodloo, P online Tornelo rapid 2021 *)* 12...Na5 13.Qc2 Nd5 14.Rad1 Ba6 15.Bd2 Nb3 16.Ne4 Nxd2 17.Rxd2 Nf4!? 18.Bxc4 Rxb2!∞ Radjabov, T - Firouzja, A Madrid 2022, with an enterprising exchange sacrifice. ]

**10...Bb7**

[ There's a case for claiming that 10...Na5 is more flexible, as after 11.Qc2 Black can put his c8 bishop on either b7 or a6. ]

**11.Qc2 Na5**

[After 11...Qd7 12.Nc3 0-0-0 0.93/21 *( 12...Na5⩲* 0.34/22 *)* 13.Rd1 Jeffery Xiong tried to shake up his opponent's control with g5!? 14.Ne4 0.43/18 *( 14.0-0!±* 0.93/22 *)* 14...g4⩲ 15.Nfg5! Bxg5 16.Nxg5 h5 17.Ne4 Qd5 18.f3 Ne7!⩲ So, W - Xiong, J Speed chess online blitz 2021, with a messy enough position for a blitz game, but objectively an edge to White. ]

[Risky is 11...g5?! 0.86/20 11...Na5 0. 45 12.h3 Qd7 and now the calm 13. Nc3 would perhaps leave Black regretting his weaknesses, but in Lashkin, J - Veinberg, N Titled Tuesday online blitz 2021, White blundered with 13.Bxc4?? -1.61/20 which dropped material to *( 13.b3⩲* 0.66/18 stays ahead.*)* 13...a6-+ 14.d5 exd5 15.Bd3 axb5 16.Bf5 Qd8!-+ ]

**12.Rd1** The young Armenian star, Haik Martirosyan, has settled on this set-up as a means of combating Black's system. He's a particularly interesting player to study because he has played a number of games in this line and evidently been involved in preparation battles. **12...Qd7**

[ It's dangerous to 'go short' before generating play on the other wing: 12...0-0?! 13.h4! h6 Wards off Ng5 14.Rh3 f5? 2.73/19 *( 14...Rb8⩲* 0.57/20 *)* 15.exf6+- Rxf6 16.Ng5! Lazavik, D - Xiong, J online blitz 2021, with a raging attack. ]

**13.Nc3 0-0-0N** Flear,Glenn: 'It feels natural to go long before challenging the e5-pawn (see the next move). I'm reminded of some lines in the QGA resulting from 3.e4 Nf6, with here Black taking more risks due to his queenside structure being compromised.'

[ In a game from a couple of years back, David Anton Guijarro played Flear,Glenn: 'After'13...Rb8 here, which gives up any idea of castling long. Martirosyan's reply was very logical, he immediately took space on the kingside with Flear, Glenn: 'it's probable that Black's king won't be heading for c8 or b8, so' 14.h4! after which Martirosyan,H (2624)-Anton Guijarro,D (2669) EU-chT 23rd Terme Catez 2021 continued Flear,Glenn: 'is unpleasant to meet e.g.'

**A)** 14...h6 15.Rh3 g6 1.33/19 *( 15...Nd5⩲* 0.60/18*;* *15...Bc6 16.Nd2 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Kd7 20.h5 Rhc8 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f4 Na4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Nxb2 25.Rc2 c6 26.Bc1 Na4 27.f5 Nb6 28.fxe6+ fxe6 29.Ba6 Rc7 30.Bd2* 1-0 (53) Move 10 Sidelines (2544)-6. ♕d2 ♗a6 7.b3 52278 (2541) Deutschland 155/73 2023*)* 16.Kf1 Kf8 17.Rg3 Nd5 18.Bd2 (Black has the weaker king and the less harmonious set-up, so he tries some tricky stuff...) Nb3 19.Bxc4 Nxd2+ Kuzubov, Y - Abdusattorov, N Turkish league 2022, and there is no compensation for the pawn after either recapture.;

**B)** 14...Bc6 15.h5 *( 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2* 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9)*)* 15...Ba4 1.00/21 *( 15...h6⩲* 0.63/21 *)* 16.Nxa4± Qxa4 and now 17.Qe4! would have left Black in an unenviable situation. ]

**14.0-0 f5**

[Otherwise, 14...Kb8 1.17/21 14...Qc6 0.66 15.Nd2 f5 is similar, but White has a superior version: 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Nd5 1.34/19 *( ⌓18...Bd6* 0.95/20 *)* 19.Rfe1± Rdg8 2.15/22 *( 19...Bd6±* 1.29/19 *20.Ne4 Qb5 )* 20.Bd2 Nb3 21.Qe4± Gledura, B - Smirin, I Saint Louis 2022, and White was about to win a pawn with a positional advantage. Prevents Rg4. ]

[It's a bit wild to lash out with 14...g5? but decision making at blitz is not quite as rational as in slower time limits: 15.Nd2! h5 1.95/22 *( 15...Kb8± 1.58/19 16.b4 cxb3 17.Nxb3 Nac4 )* 16.b4!+- cxb3 17.Nxb3 Nxb3 18.Qxb3 Qc6 Rustemov, A - Xiong, J Titled Tuesday online blitz 2022, and now 19.f3 threatens Bb5 leaving Black with many problems. ]

[If 14...Qc6! then 15.Ne1⩲ with Bf3 to follow, would keep control. ]

**15.exf6** 0.43/20

[White should play 15.Nd2± 0.94/20 ]

**15...gxf6⩲ 16.Nd2 f5** Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'It seems like a dynamic idea to use the f-pawn in a positive manner.' Flear,Glenn: 'transposes back to the game.'

[ Martirosyan,H (2621)-Ivic,V (2606) Wch Blitz Warsaw 2021 (2) varied with Flear,Glenn: 'It's easy to meet any immediate threats down the g-file:' 16...Rhg8 after which 17.Bf3 would have transposed had Black played 17...f5. Instead there followed Bxf3 18.Nxf3

**A)** 18...Rg6?! 1.34/20 18...Qc6 0.56 19.g3 Nd5 1.89/22 *( 19...Nb3± 1.26/22 )* 20.Nxd5 1.02/22 *( 20.Qe2+- 1.89/22 )* 20...exd5± 21.Nh4± 0.66/22 Pacher, M - Bronstein, O Budapest 2022. *( 21.Qc3!± 1.15/22 Nb3 22.Rfe1 )*;

**B)** 18...Qc6 ( -> ...Rxg2+!) 19.Qe2 Nd5 1.08/21 Against Bf4 *( 19...h5⩲ 0.56/22 )* 20.g3± Bd6 21.Bd2 0.73/20 , with White beginning to mount strong pressure and Black's many weaknesses. *( ⌓21.Ne4 1.30/20 )*]

**17.Bf3 Rhg8** Flear,Glenn: '!?'

[Another possibility is 17...Bd6 , as in Faizrakhmanov, Ramil 2460 - Pridorozhni, Aleksei 2486, Governor Cup, Khanty-Mansiysk Governor Cup 2023, which White should meet with the prophylactic 18.Ne2 Prevents f4. Rhg8 19.g3 . Black, as usual, has a lot of weaknesses. ]

**18.Bxb7+**

[ 18.g3 Bd6 with some chances to create further activity on the kingside ]

**18...Kxb7 19.g3**

[ Martirosyan had previously played 19.Nf3 -0.39/23 19.b4 0.34 but then the engines immediately flash up Flear,Glenn: '(eyeing the e5-square)' Qc6 as being better for Black. 20.Qe2 Martirosyan,H (2633)-Martin Duque,J (2421) La Roda op 48th 2022 (6) proceeded Nb3 21.g3 And now Ne5 would win. Bf6 Flear,Glenn: '=' Flear, Glenn: 'Martirosyan, H - Martin Duque, J La Roda 2022, and his opponent had all the soft spots well covered.' 22.Rfe1 and now moving either rook's pawn two squares would have been better for Black. ]

**19...Qc6** Flear,Glenn: 'Occupying the long diagonal offers a good-looking posting, but this seems to be questionable so early, as there are some tactical problems down the c-file a little later.'

[ If he is going to throw his h-pawn in the direction of White's king, then he should do so immediately with 19...h5!⇄ The point being that there is no pressing need to commit the Black queen. ]

[ 19...h5 simplifies 20.b3 cxb3 21.Nxb3 Nxb3 22.Qxb3 h4 ]

**20.Ne2** Taking prophylactic measures against Black's kingside play whilst looking to initiate action along the c-file. **20...h5** Possibly missing White's coming b2-b4 idea. Flear,Glenn: '!?'

[ 20...Bd6 21.Rc1 Nd5 would have been better when Flear,Glenn: '!'. aiming for ...f4. 22.b4 *( 22.Nxc4 Nxc4 23.Qxc4 Qxc4 24.Rxc4 f4⇄ would generate some counterplay.)* 22...cxb3 23.Nxb3 Qxc2 24.Nxa5+ Ka6 25.Rxc2 Kxa5 is more or less equal. ]

**21.Rc1!** Strongly threatening b4. **21...h4** 0.96/20 Flear,Glenn: 'It's evident that a vigorous reaction from White is required as Black is making inroads on the right flank.'

[ 21...Nd5⩲ 0.58/23 is superior. ]

**22.b4!± cxb3 23.Nxb3 Nac4**

[ Black can no longer seek sanctuary in an endgame as after Flear,Glenn: 'Plain bad is' 23...Qxc2? 2.46/18 23...Nac4 0.21 Flear,Glenn: '?' Flear, Glenn: 'due to' 24.Nxa5+ Ka6 25.Rxc2 Kxa5 Flear,Glenn: 'and now there are several strong moves, the best of these being' 26.Nf4! he would be crushed. Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'and Black's 'c' and e-pawns are too weak.' ]

**24.Nd2** The board is on fire. **24...hxg3 25.hxg3**

[ 25.Nxc4? gxh2+ 26.Kxh2 Qg2# ]

[ 25.fxg3?! Qg2+ 26.Kxg2 Nxe3+ 27.Kh1 Nxc2 28.Rxc2 Rde8= *( 28...Bxa3 29.Rb1= )*]

**25...Rh8 26.f3 Na5** Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'Pichot defends accurately.' **27.Nb3! Nac4** 1.60/21

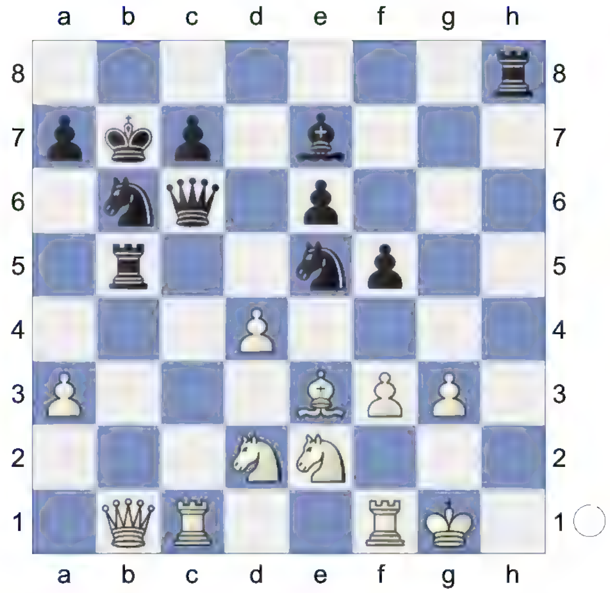
[Better is 27...Qxc2!⩲ 0.70/21 28.Nxa5+ Ka6 29.Rxc2 Kxa5 ]

**28.Qd3!** Flear,Glenn: '!' Flear,Glenn: 'Correctly 'playing on' whilst judging that the line-up down the c-file offers him some chances.' **28...Rd5**

[ 28...Bxa3? 29.Na5+ Nxa5 30.Rxc6 Nxc6 31.Qxa3+- ]

**29.Nd2 Ne5 30.Qb3** 1.26/20

[ There is a remarkable idea here: 30.Qb1! Rb5 2.59/22 *( 30...Qd7 1.80/20 was necessary. )*



and now 31.Qa1!+- (hiding out of sight, perhaps, but there is also a view all the way along the long diagonal) and then Nec4 32.Nxc4 Nxc4 33.d5! and the queen on a1 hits the rook on h8. ]

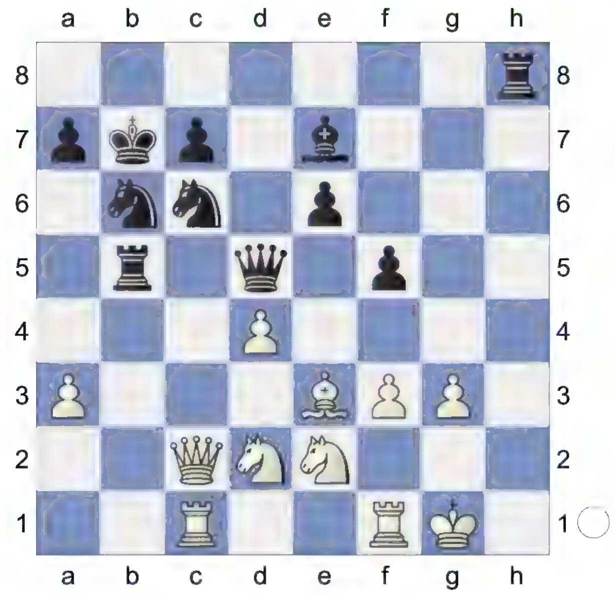
[ 30.dxe5? Rxd3 31.Rxc6 Kxc6-+ ]

[ 30.Qb1+- 1.96/22 Rb5 31.Rxc6 Rxb1 32.Rxe6 *( 32.Rxb6+ Rxb6 33.dxe5 Discovered Attack Rb2± )* 32...Rxf1+ Remove Defender 33.Nxf1 *( 33.Kxf1 Nc6⩲ )*]

**30...Rb5 31.Rxc6**

[ Not bad, but White had an even stronger continuation in Flear,Glenn: 'If' 31.Qa2! Qd5 Flear,Glenn: 'and then' Flear,Glenn: 'however, keeping the queens is stronger:' 32.Qc2 Flear,Glenn: '!' *( 32.Qxd5+? -0.01/20*

32.Qc2 1.08 simply *32...Nxd5=* as the bishop on e3 is en prise.*)* 32...Nc6



33.a4! Flear,Glenn: '→!' Ra5 34.Nf4 . ]

**31...Rxb3 32.Rxb6+**

[ 32.Rxe6 Rxe3 33.Rxe5 Rxe5 34.dxe5 Bxa3= ]

**32...Rxb6 33.dxe5 Rb2 34.Rb1** 0.01/27 Flear,Glenn: 'By trading Black's active rook, White obtains a fairly equal endgame.'

[ Flear,Glenn: 'More ambitious is' 34.Rd1! was better, intending to meet Flear,Glenn: 'but after' Bxa3 1.09/25 with *( 34...Rd8* White would have to wriggle a great deal, but could perhaps claim an edge with *35.Nd4* hitting the weakness on e6.; *34...Rd8!±* 0.67/22 is more appropriate.*)* 35.Nf4 . After the move played Black gets back on even terms. ]

[ 34.Re1± 0.85/21 ]

**34...Bxa3=** The position is equal.

**35.Rxb2+**

[ 35.Ra1 Bb4 36.Rb1 *( 36.Rxa7+?* too greedy. *Kb8-+ )* 36...Rxb1+ 37.Nxb1 c5± *( 37...a5 38.Nbc3∓ )*]

**35...Bxb2 36.Nc4 Ba1** Presumably this was the move played here rather than the 'official' 36...Ka8. After safeguarding the bishop the position is equal. Flear, Glenn: 'The two pieces are not superior to the rook and pawn here, as White's threats can be readily met by Black's active pieces (including the king that can perhaps head to d5).'.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.13 (very precise)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Yilmaz,Mustafa** **2587**

■ **Makarian,Rudik** **2550**

Julius Baer GenCup D3 W rapid (1.2)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Ne5** **Bd6!** outshines the older 9...Rb8. erfolgreicher als das alte 9...Tb8. **10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rfe1N**

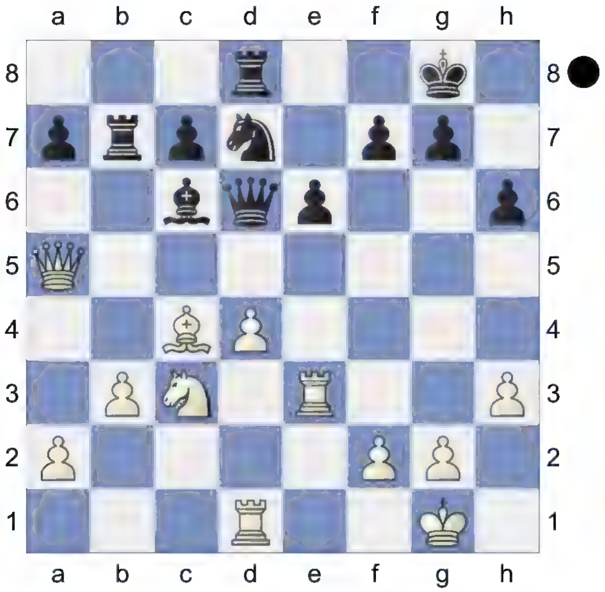
[ 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**15...0-0! 16.Rad1 Rb8 17.b3 Qd7** **18.Qe5N**

[Vorgänger: 18.h3 Rfd8 19.Qe5 Rb6 20.Re3 Qd6 21.Qxd6 Rxd6 22.Re5 Kf8 0.45/24 *( 22...Bd5= 0.08/25 )* 23.Ra5± Rb7 24.Bb5 -0.03/22 1-0 Dai,C (2503)-Livaic,L (2507) FISU World University KO rapid 2020 (1)

*( 24.f3⩲* 0.62/21 *)*]

**18...Rfd8 19.Qa5 Rb7 20.h3 Qd6 21.Re5 Nd7 22.Re3**



And now d5 would win. **22...Nb6 23.Bf1 Nd5 24.Nxd5 Bxd5 25.Rc3 c6 26.Bc4 g5** 0.49/19

[ 26...Qe7= 0.00/23 feels stronger. ]

**27.Bxd5⩲ cxd5 28.Rdc1** 0.00/27

[ 28.Rc5± 0.73/20 ]

**28...Qb6= 29.Qa4 Kg7 30.Rc8** -0.24/24

[ 30.Rc5! 0.24/21 is more appropriate. ]

**30...Rxc8 31.Rxc8** Endgame. aiming for Qe8. KQR-KQR. The position is equal. **31...Kg6 32.Rc6 Qb4** Strongly threatening ...Qxa4. **33.Qa6 Qe1+**

[ 33...Qb5 simplifies 34.Qxb5 Rxb5 35.Rc7 a5 ]

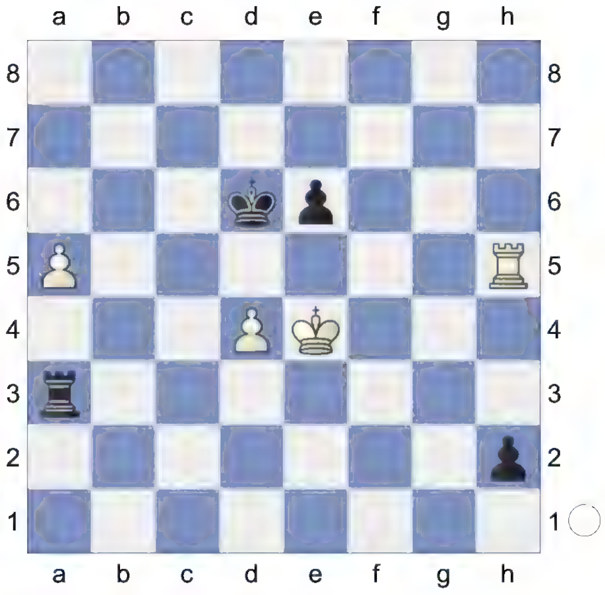
**34.Kh2 Rb4 35.Qd3+ Kg7 36.Qe3 Qxe3 37.fxe3** KR-KR **37...h5 38.Kg3 Kg6 39.Kf3 h4 40.Rc7 a6 41.Rc6 a5 42.Ra6 Rb5 43.Ra7 f6 44.e4 dxe4+ 45.Kxe4 Rf5 46.Ke3** Inhibits Rf2. **46...Rd5 47.Ke4 Rf5 48.Ke3** Repels Rf2 **48...Rb5 49.Ke4 f5+**

[ 49...Rf5!? 50.Ke3□= ]

**50.Ke3 Kf6 51.Ra6 Rd5 52.a4 g4 53.Rb6 Rd8 54.Rb5 Rc8** Hoping for ... Rc3+. **55.hxg4**

[Much worse is 55.Rxa5 Rc3+ 56.Kf4 gxh3 57.gxh3 Rxh3⩱ *( 57...Rxb3? 58.Ra6-+ )*]

**55...fxg4 56.Kf4 h3 57.gxh3 gxh3 58.Rh5** Prevents Rh8 **58...Rc3 59.Rh6+ Ke7 60.Rh5 Rxb3 61.Rxa5 Kd6 62.Rh5 Rd3 63.Ke4 Ra3 64.a5 h2**



Deflection **65.Rxh2 Rxa5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D24**

☐ **Karjakin,Sergey 2757**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof 2729**
FIDE World Cup (64.1) 04.08.2021
*[Justin Tan,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** aiming for Qa4+. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+** White has an edge. **8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8**

[We have also covered 9...a5

However, I believe White has a slight pull after

A) 10.d5 exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Bg5 c6! *( 15...Qc8 16.Rac1±* 1-0 Svane,R - Meier,G Dresden 2017*)* 16.Qe5 Qb8 17.Qd4 Bf5 should hold up for Black. Interestingly, there are a couple of GMs (or Playchess users with misleading account names!) who have examined 18.g4!? Bg6 19.f4 f5 is the strong threat. Bc2! 20.Rac1 Ba4! 21.f5 Bb5 but Black basically just ignores whatever it is that White is doing on the kingside, while White probably needs to be a bit careful about their own king.;

B) 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 0-0 *( 12...Rb8 13.d5 e5 14.Qg3 0-0 15.Qxe5 Bd6 16.Qg5 Re8 17.h3 h6 18.Qd2 Qe7 19.Qd4 c5 20.dxc6 Bxc6 21.Bf4 Bc5 22.Qd2 Rbd8 23.Qc1 Ne4 24.Be3 Bd6 25.Ne2 Ba8 26.Rd1 Rc8 27.b3* 0-1 (33) 6.d3 d6 7.a4 a5 8.b5 (2436)-Moskow,E (2647) 62/ (88) Baile Herculane 1994 (4)*)* 13.Bf4 Rb8 (or *13...a4 14.Be5* ) 14.Be5↑ although objectively it is probably too much to claim that White has any advantage here. ]

[ 9...Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**10.Nxc6N**

[ 10.Rd1 and 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19 cxd4 15.Rxd4 h6 16.h3 Qe7 17.a4 Bc5 18.Rd3 Chapter Vienna-5.e4 Bb4 7.0-0 Nf6!? 2020 ]

[ 10.d5 are both covered by Illingworth in Carlsen - Duda. Black is fine according to Illingworth. ]

**10...bxc6 11.Rd1** Not even trying for an advantage.

[ 11.Qxa7 allows Black to free their position considerably with Bd7! 12.Qa4 c5 13.Qd1 0-0⇄ ]

[ 11.a3 is suggested by the ambiguous "New Engine", in Chessbase's cloud. It does seem to be the most testing try. Bd6 12.Qxa7 Bd7! 13.Qa4 Nd5 This is my guess as to what Duda had prepared. *( 13...c5 14.Qd1 cxd4 15.Qxd4±; 13...0-0 14.Qd1* Repels Ng4 *e5 15.dxe5 Bxe5 16.h3± )* 14.Qd1 *( 14.Ne4 Bxh2+ 15.Kxh2* Threatens to win with Qc2. *Qh4+ 16.Kg1 Qxe4 17.Qd1 h5!* Black's plan is straightforward - push Harry down the board! This will need further analysis, but it feels as though Black should be doing fine here, and a preliminary investigation supports this claim: *18.Re1 Qg6 19.a4 h4 20.a5 h3 21.g3 h2+ 22.Kh1 Nb4! 23.Bf4 Qc2 24.Be2 c5∞ )* 14...Nxc3 15.bxc3 Ra8! 16.Bd3 Ra5∞ The rook was not doing much on the a-file, whereas on a5 it hints at transferring to the kingside, and also puts up more resistance against the a-pawn. Generally, Black plays for ...c5, ...Qf6 while White hopes to make use of their better pawn structure and passed a-pawn. To be honest, the position is too unclear still to draw strong conclusions. Optically, White's position looks more promising and more natural, but given the concrete nature of modern chess, Black probably has sufficient counterplay here. ]

**11...Bd7** The position is equal. **12.Bg5 Be7 13.Qxa7** Karjakin blitzed all of these moves out, which means his seconds couldn't find anything convincing enough to try in the classical portion. **13...Ra8 14.Qb7 Rb8! 15.Qa7 Ra8 16.Qb7 Rb8 17.Qa7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Grischuk,Alexander** **2776**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2729**

FIDE World Cup (37.5) 25.07.2021

*[Justin Tan,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** 0-0 would now be deadly. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+!** White has an edge.

[ 8.Qe2 -0.12/19 8.Qa4+ 0.33 see Carlsen - Duda, 2021. ]

**8...Nc6 9.Bg5**

[ 9.Ne5 see Karjakin - Duda, 2021. ]

[ 9.Ne5 is interesting. Rb8 10.d5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 exd5 12.Nxc6 bxc6 13.Qxc6+ Qd7 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Be3 ]

**9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 h6 11.Bh4 0-0 12.Rad1**

[ 12.Rfe1 Ne7 13.Bd3 Bd7 14.Qc2 Nf5 15.Bxf5 ( *15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Ne5 Rfd8* Somehow Stockfish is really not impressed by White's position - they are a pawn down after all.) 15...exf5= ]

[ 12.Ne5 Qd6 equalises according to Illingworth's analysis (Carlsen - Duda). ]

**12...Ne7!** Not fearing the doubled f-pawns. This idea was already shown by Illingworth in Carlsen - Duda, 2019. **13.Bxf6?!** Grischuk was tempted by this opportunity, but it is less appealing than it looks. Black's f6-pawn will do a good job protecting the e5-square, while the knight on e7 is a solid defender of the king.

[ I would hazard a guess that after 13.Bd3 Duda prepared Nfd5 *(* It is just as likely that he had planned *13...Bd7 14.Qb3! b5 )* 14.Qc2 Qe8 with the idea of ... Bd7, ...Ba4. For instance 15.Rfe1 Bd7 16.Rb1 Ba4 17.Qd2 c4! is the strong threat. b5!∞ White has the slightly more active position for now, but once Black gets in ...Rc8 and .. .c5, they could easily take over the initiative. ]

**13...gxf6 14.Qc2 Rb8 15.a4 a6** Interestingly, my engine maintains that White is the one who needs to be careful here, not Black. This reassures me that White doesn't have any real prospects of an attack. **16.Rfe1**

[ I considered some possible bail-out options for White such as 16.d5 aiming for dxe6. exd5 17.Qc1 but it is not clear where this leads after b5 *( 17...Kg7?! 18.Bxd5! Nxd5 19.c4* White has some chances here, though the position is equal.*)* 18.axb5 axb5 19.Bd3 Kg7 20.Nd4! Rb6 (freeing up the e7-knight so that it can go to g6). ]

**16...b5 17.Ba2 Kg7 18.Nh4**

[ 18.d5 again comes into consideration. Nxd5 19.Bxd5 exd5

20.Nd4 Rb6! Wards off Nc6 21.Rd3 Rg8 Even here, Black apparently has nothing to fear. Although they have been forced to exchange their strong knight, the rook on b6 is a strong subsitute as it is able to defend along the sixth rank. ]

**18...Qd6**

[ My engine continues to put its faith in Black's position, and gives Black an advantage after 18...Rg8 As always, we need to check the violent 19.d5 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.axb5 axb5 22.Nf5+ Bxf5 23.Qxf5 c6 24.Re3 Qd6 It is somewhat hard to believe that Black can be better here due to their exposed king, but I suppose there is just no way for White to take advantage of it. Threatens to win with ...Rbe8. 25.Rd4? -0.96/22 (White should try *25.Rde1∓* -0.45/21 *Kh8 26.h4* ) 25...Kh8∓ and Black's rook will cover the weaknesses with ...Rg6 next. ]

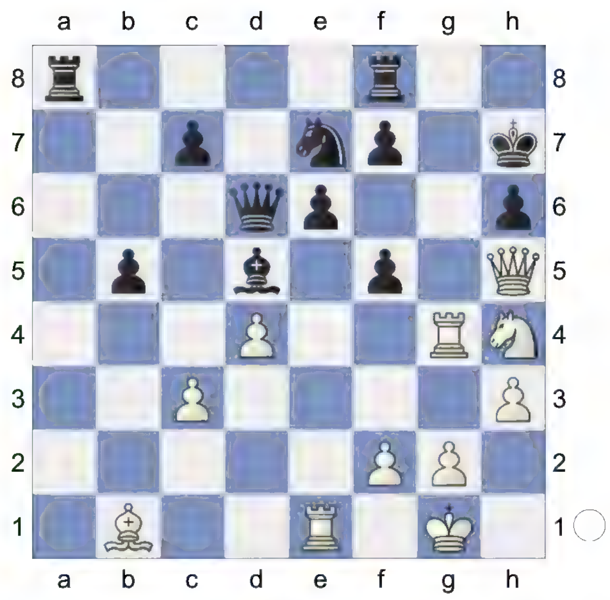
**19.Rd3 f5 20.axb5 axb5 21.Rg3+N Kh7! 22.Qe2** Hoping for Qh5. **22...Bb7 23.Qh5!** The position is equal. **23...Ra8 24.Bb1 Qf4 25.h3** White has shifted some pieces towards the kingside, but as Duda has demonstrated, there is just no way to infiltrate! Dancing on a razor blade. **25...Kh8!** A strong prophylactic move.

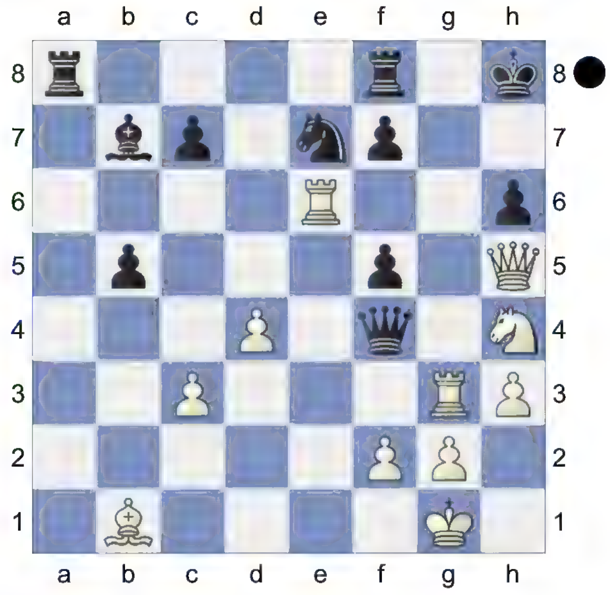
[ 25...Bd5? 0.89/20 25...Kh8 0.00 26.Rg4! Qd6

(Diagram)

27.Rg5! is a fantastic idea which is quite easy to miss. White just gangs up on the f5-pawn, preparing to sacrifice the rook. ]

**26.Rxe6**





Grischuk finds the appropriate bail-out solution. Deflection **26...fxe6 27.Ng6+! Nxg6 28.Qxg6 Rg8** Repels Qg7+ **29.Qf6+ Kh7 30.Qf7+ Kh8 31.Qf6+ Kh7 32.Qf7+ Kh8 33.Qf6+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D24**
□ **Carlsen,Magnus 2847**
■ **So,Wesley 2770**
FTX Crypto Cup KO rapid (3.21) 31.05.21
*[Nielsen,Peter, Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4!?** So Magnus changes the course of event by: steering towards another drawish ending! **5...Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Ne5** Strongly threatening Qg4. White has compensation .This Karjakin, by transposition, played against Magnus in the 2016 World Championship match. It was introduced by Kramnik who showed that Black's task in the ending by no means was simple. **9...0-0 10.Qg4** Hoping for Bh6. **10...Nc6 11.Bh6**

[ 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3- Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 ]

**11...Bf6 12.Rad1N**

[ 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 *( 13.f4 Ng6 14.Bg5 c5 15.Rf3 b5 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Rh3 Qd5 18.Bxf6 Qxg2+ 19.Qxg2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 21.Kg3 Nxh3 22.Be7* Cheparinov,I (2650)-Franco Alonso,A (2454) 113/(146) San Sebastian 2011 *Ng5 23.Bxf8 cxd4 24.Be7 f6 25.cxd4 Re8 26.Nc6* Cheparinov,I (2640)-Quesada Perez,Y (2515) 99/(115) Morella 2007*)* 13...c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 21.Nxd8 Bxf3 22.Nxf7 Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**12...Ne7!** This is Kramnik's idea. Black happily gives away the pair of bishops, hoping that his central control and more active king secures the balance. Here in an earlier online game vs. So, Magnus tried 13 ♘a5 ♖ab8 14 ♘xb7 R ♖xb7 15 ♗d2, but here tries another twist:

**13.Bc1!?** Not threatening ♖xd7 as ... ♘xd7 still covers the c5 bishop, but more of a useful waiting move before declaring intentions. Black obviously has many decent moves, and Wesley chooses the most obvious, not giving White a second chance to grab the pair of bishops. **13...c5 14.Ba3** -0.49/22

[ 14.Rfe1= 0.21/18 ]

**14...Qc7∓ 15.Qh5!** -0.94/19 This is the point. White uses the vulnerable bishop to create instability in the black queenside pawn chain.

[ 15.Bd3= -0.28/19 ]

**15...Bxe5!∓ 16.dxe5 b6** -0.58/21

[ 16...Bd7∓ -0.97/22 17.Bb3 Bb5 ]

**17.Bd3** -1.00/20

[ 17.Rd3∓ -0.58/21 might be stronger. ]

**17...Ng6 18.Bc1! Bb7**

[ 18...Nxe5 19.Qxh7# ]

**19.Bg5** -2.06/24 Prevents Rad8.

[ 19.Rfe1∓ -1.01/18 ]

**19...h6 20.Bc1!** Like at move 18, White is not afraid of the isolated pawn, even despite that Black has it beautifully bloackaded with full control of the d5 square. **20...Nxe5→** Black has strong attack. **21.Rfe1** At sight, it might look as if Black is perfectly fine indeed. And put the b-pawn back to b5, and indeed he would be better. But this detail very much makes the difference. As it is now, the weakness of the black queenside pawns makes the difference. Black can't play ... ♖c8 as b4 then would fall, and having to also defend the a6-pawn means ♗lack has no reasonable way to activate his pieces. In short: Details matter! **21...f6 22.f4** -2.19/21

[ 22.Bc2 -1.78/19 was worth a try. Rad8 23.Qe2 ]

**22...Nxd3-+ 23.Rxd3** Quite an extraordinary move, and a good one! As Black lacks active options, White's task is to improve his own position and this very much does so. Apart from trivialities like avoiding bottom-rank mates, more relevantly it leaves Black with a structural dilemma. If ...h5 the he will have weakened his kingside structure, but allowing a white h5 means h6 becomes a potential and if ...h6 then the g7-pawn will be fixed as a weakness. So tries some sort of active counterplay, but that just makes things worse. **23...Rad8 24.Rg3 Rd5 25.Qxh6 Qd7? 26.h3!** Black did, techically. solve the problem of the a6-pawn, but the price was losing control of the long diagonal. If 26... ♗xd3 27 ♗xb7 White enters the 7th rank via c7 so Black's reply is forced. **26...Rf7** ...Rd1 is the strong threat. **27.Kh2!** -3.16/22 An impressive decision. But as Larsen stated, opposite coloured bishop endings perhaps often are drawn. But when they are winning, they are VERY winning. Black simply has zero counterplay in the following.

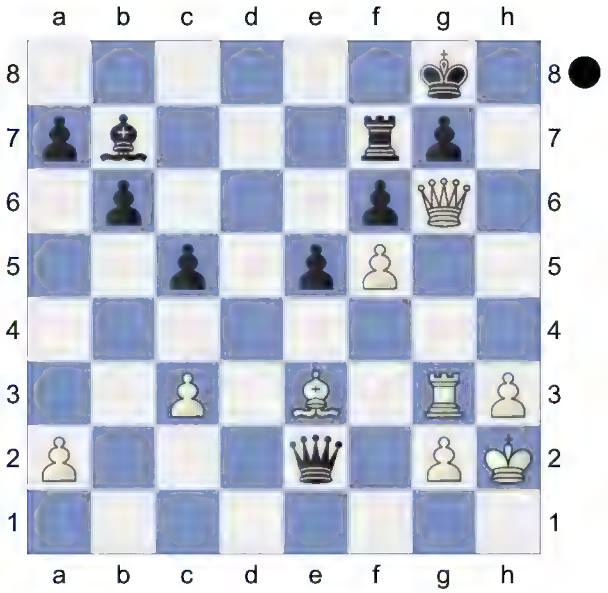
[ ⌓27.Qg6 -1.72/21 ]

**27...Rd1 28.Rxd1 Qxd1 29.f5 e5 30.Be3** -4.28/23

[ 30.a3 -2.88/21 was necessary. ]

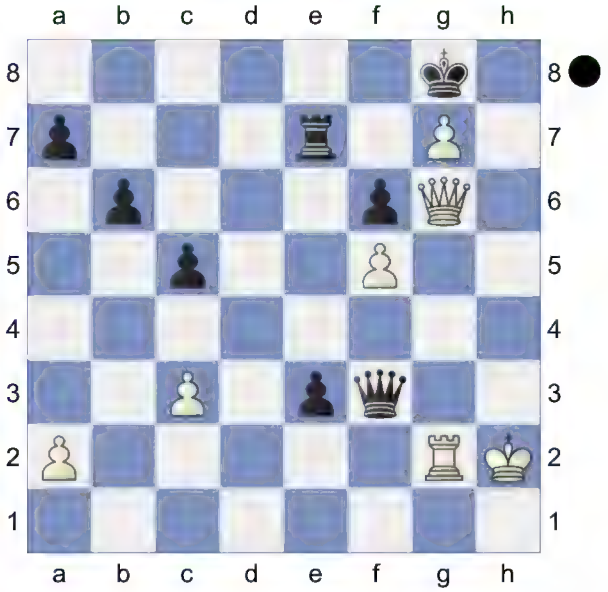
**30...Qe2 31.Qg6**

(Diagram)



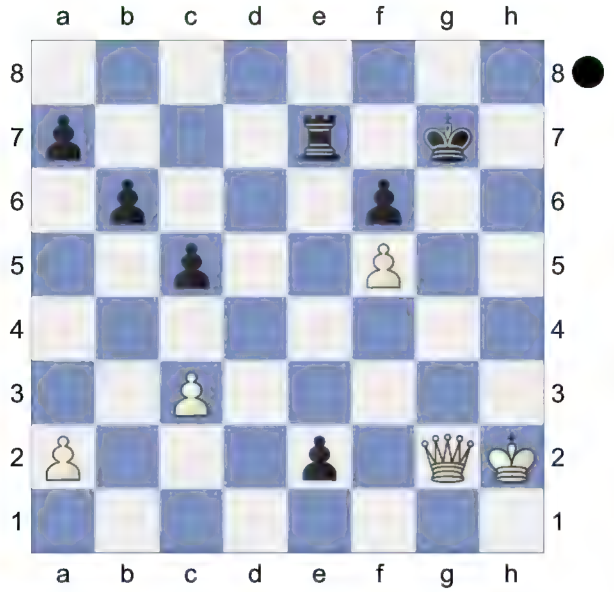
At sight Black's position might look like a fortress, but White enters via the h-file, and there is absolutely no defence against that plan. **31...Bxg2!** Deflection **32.Rxg2 Qxe3** Endgame. KQR-KQR **33.h4 Qf4+ 34.Kh3** Threatening 35 ♖h7+ winning a piece. So Black has to defend the c6 bishop. **34...e4 35.h5 e3 36.h6 Re7** ...e2 would now be deadly. **37.Qh5**

[ 37.hxg7 Qh7+! would kill now. Qf3+! immediately was a better figthing chance. 38.Kh2



White wants to mate with Qh7+! Qxg2+! 39.Qxg2 e2! 40.Qh3

White threatens Qh8+ and mate. Kxg7 41.Qg3+ *( 41.Qg2+?* -14.61/38 41.Qg3+ -3.37



*Kh8! 42.Qa8+ Kh7 )* Magnus in 2016 played 41...Kf8!? and drew effortlessly, but since then improvements for White have been found. And ironically it was Kramnik who introduced how Black is supposed to proceed in a later game, thus effectively neutralising his own idea! 42.Qe1 is the main move, Magnus e.g. having beaten Giri last year in an excellent attacking game. But recently So has been efficient after b5!? steering the game towards a drawish ending. ]

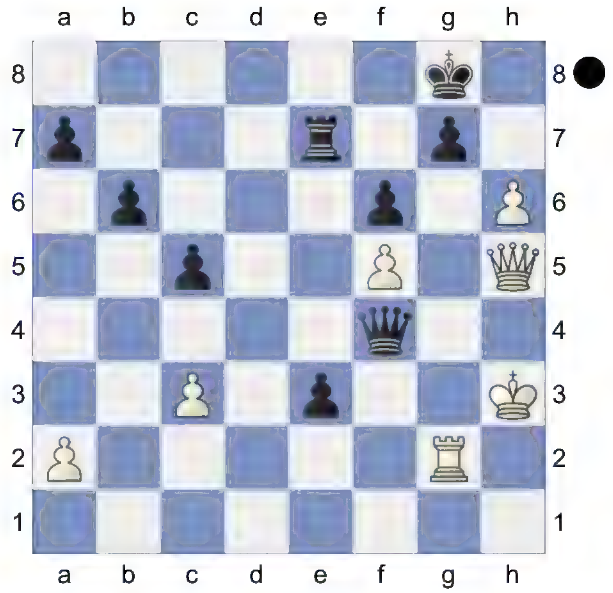
(Diagram)

**37...e2!** ( -> ...Re3+). Decoy **38.Rxe2** Now the rook on b5 is completely shut out of the game!

[ 38.Rxg7+ Kf8 ]

**38...Qf1+**

[ 38...Qxh6? is the wrong capture. 39.Qxh6 *( 39.Rxe7?* loses. *Qxh5+*



*40.Kg3 Qg5+ 41.Kf3 Qxf5+ 42.Ke3 Qg5+ 43.Kf2 Qd2+ 44.Re2 Qxc3-+ )* 39...Rxe2 40.Qf4+- ]

**39.Rg2** And with no reasonable moves So resigned. At best he now loses his kingside pawns, but on top of that his rook is trapped at b5, and moving his bishop allows ♖c7 so resignation is fully in order. An impressive and instructive strategical gem by Magnus. **39...Qh1+** Skewer.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.86/ Black=0.08 (flawless) . Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Van Foreest,Jorden 2690**
■ **Lu,Shanglei 2605**
WchT Pool-A 13th rapid (4.2) 21.11.2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

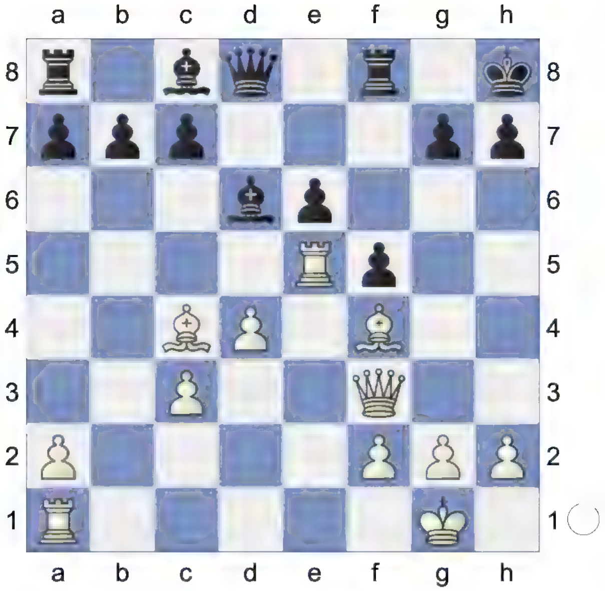
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** Black must now prevent Qa4+. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better.

**8...Be7 9.Ne5** aiming for Qg4. White has compensation. **9...0-0 10.Re1 Nc6 11.Qg4 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4**

[ 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 ]

**14...Bd6** 14...g5 is not played anymore. 14...g5 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt.

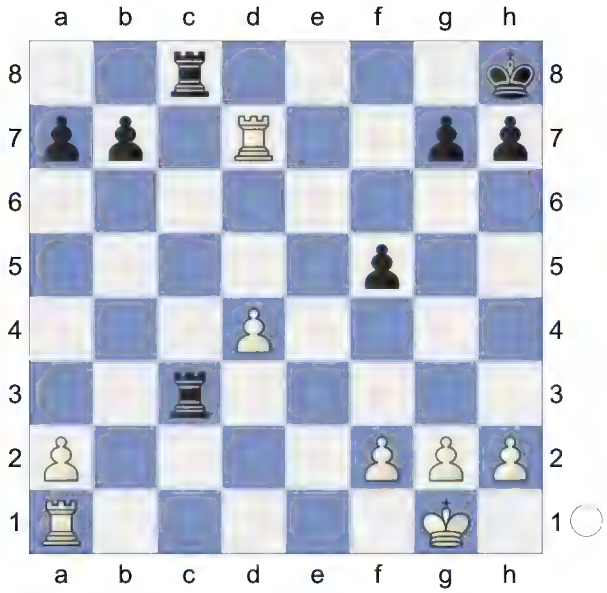
[ 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qf6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8 21.Re3 h6 22.Qh2 b5 23.Bf1 Kh7 24.Qxh4 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 26.Bd3 Rg6 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.fxg3 Bb7 29.Bc2 ↑-↑ (35) 11... ♕c7 12. ♘bd2 cd4 13.c, 4 (2769)-Wastfelt,T (2677) Bosna i Hercegovina (rapid) 89/187 2003 (3) ]



...g5 is the strong threat. **15.Ree1N**

[ 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 h6 ( *16...Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 Qf7 23.Qxh6 b5 24.Bb3 Re8 25.h4 a5 26.a3 Kf8 27.Qg5 Re7 28.h5 Be8 29.Qh4 Qg8 30.Rg3 Qh7 31.Rg5* (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1)) 17.Qh5 Qg5 Sacrificial Line-Main plan 9. ♘e5 - Qg4 2016 ]

**15...Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 Bxe6 19.Rxe6±** Endgame. KRR-KRR **19...Rac8 20.Rxd6 Rxc3 21.Rd7 Rfc8**



( -> ...Rc1+) **22.Re1** With the idea g3!

[ 22.Rxb7? leads to mate. Rc1+ 23.Rxc1 Rxc1# ]

**22...Kg8N**

[Vorgänger: 22...Rc1 23.Kf1 And now d5! would win. R1c2 0.65/26 ( *23...h6!= 0.25/24* ) 24.Ree7 Rxa2 25.Rc7 0.07/22 ( White should play *25.g3± 0.57/24* ) 25...Rg8!= 26.Rxb7 a5 27.g3 h6 28.Ra7 f4 29.gxf4 ½-½ (58) Egresi,M (2362)-Nguyen,A (2311) Budapest 2022 ]

**23.Rxb7 R8c7 24.Rb5 g6** The position is equal. **25.h4 Rc1 26.Rxc1 Rxc1+=** KR-KR **27.Kh2** White wants to play Ra5. **27...Rc2 28.Rb8+ Kg7 29.Rb7+ Kh6 30.Kg3 Rxa2 31.d5 Rd2 32.Rd7 Rd4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Dreev,Alexey 2606**
■ **Matlakov,Maxim 2662**
Airthings Masters Div 3 L rapid (3.1)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.e5**

[ 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 ]

**7...h6**

[ 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qa5 9.exf6 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qxg5 11.fxg7 Qxg7 12.Qd2 0-0 13.Bxc4

**A)** 13...Bd7 14.0-0 Nc6 *( 14...Rc8 15.Bb3 Rc5 16.f4 Nc6 17.Rad1 Rc8 18.Rf3 )* 15.f4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Bc6 *( 16...Rac8 17.Bb3 Rfd8 18.Rf3 Kh8 19.Rg3 Qf6 )* 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Rf2 Ba4;

**B)** 13...a6 14.0-0 b5 15.Bb3 b4;

**C)** 13...Rd8 14.Qe3 Bd7 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Nf3 Ne7 17.Ne5 Ng6 18.f4 Nxe5 *( 18...Rac8 )* 19.fxe5 Bc6 ]

**8.Bd2** -0.21/23

[ 8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8 10.dxc5 -0.01/19 *( 10.Qc2± 0.44/20 Rxg7 11.0-0-0 )* 10...Qxd1+= 11.Rxd1 Rxg7 ]

[ 8.exf6± 0.63/23 hxg5 9.fxg7 ]

**8...Bxc3!=** 8...b6 is the modern continuation. 8...b6 ist die moderne Fortsetzung.

[ 8...Nd5 0.23/22 8...Bxc3 -0.17 9.Bxc4 Nb6 0.63/21 *( 9...cxd4= 0.24/22 10.Nb5 Be7 )* 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ N6xd7 12.Ne4 Bxd2+ *( 12...Qb6* 1.39/25 12...Bxd2+ 0.32 *13.Nd6+ Ke7 14.0-0* aiming for Rc1. *cxd4 15.Nc4! Qc5 16.Bxb4 Qxb4 17.Rc1! Nc6 18.Nxd4 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Rhd8 20.a3 Qc5 21.Qh4+ Kf8 22.b4 Qb5 23.Rfd1 )* 13.Qxd2 0-0 14.Nxc5 -0.13/23 *( 14.dxc5 Qc7 15.Qc3 Qc6; 14.dxc5±* 0.38/21 *Qc7 15.Qc3 )*]

**9.bxc3 Ne4 10.Bxc4 Bd7N** 0.36/23

[ 10...Nc6 11.0-0

**A)** 11...0-0 0.52/21 11...Nxd2 -0.01 12.Be1! Ng5 1.35/21 *( 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Ng5; 12...cxd4±* 0.54/22 *13.cxd4 Ng5 )* 13.Nxg5± hxg5 14.Qe2;

**B)** 11...cxd4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 1.12/22 *( 12...Nxd2!=* 0.00/19 *13.Qxd2*

*0-0 )* 13.Bxh6 *( 13.Bb4* 0.90/19 13.Bxh6 1.33 *Nc6 )* 13...Nxf3+ 1.65/19 *( 13...Rxh6±* 1.18/23 was worth a try. *14.Nxd4 Bd7 )* 14.Qxf3+-

**B1)** 14...Qh4 2.11/21 14...Rxh6 1.56 15.Bf4 And now Bb5+ would win. Nd2? 3.90/20 *( 15...a6* 1.84/21 might work better.*)* 16.Bb5++- Kf8 17.Qa3+ Kg8 18.Bg3;

**B2)** 14...Rxh6 15.Bb5+? 0.12/20 *( 15.Qxe4+-* 1.80/25 *Qh4 16.Bb5+ Ke7 17.f4 )* 15...Bd7= 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Qxe4;

**C)** 11...Nxd2 12.Qxd2 0-0 13.Bd3 *( 13.Qf4 )* 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 b6 15.Qf4 Strongly threatening Qe4. *( 15.Be4 Bb7 )* 15...Bb7 16.Qe4 g6 17.Qf4 Nb4 18.Qxh6! Bxf3 19.Bxg6 fxg6 20.Qxg6+ Kh8 White must now prevent ...Qh4! 21.Qh6+ ]

[ 10...cxd4= 0.00/27 11.cxd4 Nxd2 12.Qxd2 0-0 ]

**11.d5⩲ 0-0**

[ 11...exd5 12.Bxd5 Bc6 13.Bxe4! Bxe4 14.Qa4+ Bc6 15.Qg4 ]

**12.0-0** -0.03/22

[ 12.dxe6 -0.03/22 12.d6 0.44 Bxe6 13.Bxe6 fxe6 14.0-0 -0.64/25 *( 14.Qe2!=* -0.09/24 *Nxd2 15.Nxd2 )* 14...Nc6 *( 14...Rxf3* -0.32/22 14...Nc6 -0.74 *15.Qxf3 Nxd2 16.Qxb7 )*]

[ 12.d6⩲ 0.34/25 ]

**12...exd5= 13.Bxd5 Bc6 14.Bxe4** -0.47/16

[ 14.Bb3= -0.02/23 ]

**14...Bxe4⩱ 15.Be3 Qxd1**

[ 15...Nd7 ]

**16.Rfxd1 b6 17.Rd6! Rc8**

[ 17...Bxf3 0.53/19 17...Rc8 -0.10 18.gxf3 ]

**18.Nd2 Bf5 19.h3 h5** Black is weak on the dark squares

[ 19...Nc6 20.g4 Be6 *( 20...Bc2 21.f4 )* 21.f4 ]

**20.Bg5**

[ 20.f4 -0.05/23 20.Bg5 0.34 Nc6 21.Kf2 -0.54/23 *( 21.Nf1=* -0.06/22 *)* 21...Na5⩱ 22.g4 -0.90/22 *( 22.Rg1⩱* -0.40/21 *)* 22...hxg4⩱ 23.hxg4 Bxg4 24.Rg1 Be6 -0.41/18 *( 24...Bf5∓* -0.84/24 *25.Rg5 g6 )* 25.Rg5 Nb7! 26.Rd3 Rd8 -0.38/22 *( 26...g6-+* -1.81/23 *27.Ne4 Kf8 )* 27.Rxd8+⩱ Rxd8 28.f5 ]

**20...Nc6**

[ 20...Kf8 1.35/23 20...Nc6 0.27 21.Nf1 ]

**21.f4 Na5**

[ 21...b5 22.Nf1 ]

**22.Re1 Re8**

[ 22...Nb7 23.Rd5 *( 23.Nc4?* -1.39/26 23.Rd5 0.51 *b5! )* 23...Be6

**A)** 24.c4? -2.43/24 24.Rd3 0.46 Bxd5 *( 24...b5?* 0.34/20 24...Bxd5 -2.04; *24...Na5 )* 25.cxd5 c4;

**B)** 24.Rd3 Bxa2 1.55/21 *( 24...c4 25.Rd4; 24...b5⩲* 0.56/21 *)*

**B1)** 25.c4 0.94/22 25.f5 1.55 Na5 26.Rc1 0.44/23 ( Better is *26.Rg3±* 1.08/22 );

**B2)** 25.f5± 1.55/21;

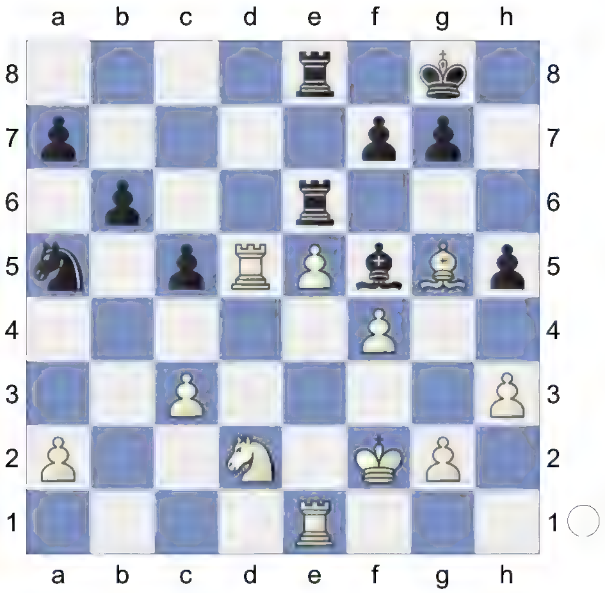
**B3)** 25.Rd7 0.24/24 25...Na5!= 26.f5 Repels Be6 ]

**23.Kf2 Re6**

[ 23...Nb7 24.Rd5 Be6 25.Rd3 Bxa2 0.70/22 *( 25...c4!=* 0.13/20 *26.Rg3 Nc5 )* 26.Rd7 0.00/24 *( 26.c4⩲* 0.70/22 *f6 27.exf6 Rxe1 28.Kxe1 gxf6 29.Bxf6 )*]

**24.Rd5 Rae8**

(Diagram)



**25.g4** 0.09/22 **hxg4= 26.hxg4 Bxg4 27.Rg1 Bf5 28.Bf6 Bg6**

[ 28...g6? 3.49/25 28...Bg6 0.11 29.Rh1 *( 29.Rd6??* -1.69/20 29.Rh1 3.01 *Rxd6 30.exd6 Re6! 31.d7 Nc6! )* 29...Rxf6 30.exf6 ]

**29.Bh4**

[ 29.f5 gxf6 30.fxe6 Rxe6 31.exf6 Rxf6+ 32.Ke3 ]

**29...Bf5**

[ 29...Nc6 0.46/21 29...Kf8 -0.15 30.Nc4 Ne7 31.Bxe7 R8xe7 *( 31...R6xe7?* 2.55/20 31...R8xe7 0.70 *32.Nd6 )* 32.Rd8+ 0.14/13 *( 32.Rg5⩲* 0.54/19 *)* 32...Re8= 33.Rxe8+ Rxe8 34.Nd6 Re7? 1.59/22 *( 34...Rd8=* 0.00/27 *)* 35.f5⩲ Bh5 36.Rg5 g6 37.f6! ]

[ 29...a6 ]

**30.Rg5**

[ 30.Bf6!? Bg6□ 31.f5 gxf6 32.fxe6 Rxe6 33.exf6 Rxf6+ 34.Ke3= ]

**30...Rh6** 1.07/18

[ 30...g6? 1.21/20 30...Bc2 -0.43 31.Rg1 ]

[ 30...Bc2 31.Rd7 -0.69/24 *( 31.Rg3=* -0.27/23 *)* 31...Rh6∓ 32.Kg3 a6 ]

[ 30...Bc2= -0.30/26 keeps the balance. ]

**31.Rxf5± Rxh4 32.Rd7↑** Keeping Black busy. **32...f6 33.exf6 gxf6 34.Rxf6** f5! would now be deadly.

[ 34.Rxa7 Rh2+ 35.Kf3 Rxd2∓ ]

**34...Rf8**

[ 34...Rh2+ 1.86/23 34...Rf8 0.94 35.Kf3 Rhe2 Dodges Ne4 ]

[ 34...Rh7 35.Rxh7 0.48/18 *( 35.Rg6+!±* 1.00/21 *Kh8 36.Rxh7+ Kxh7 37.Rd6 )* 35...Kxh7⩲ 36.Rf7+ Kg6 37.Rxa7 ]

**35.Rxf8+ Kxf8** Endgame. KRN-KRN **36.Kg3**

[ 36.Rxa7 Rxf4+ 37.Ke2 Ke8= ]

**36...Rh1 37.Rxa7 Rd1**

[ 37...Ra1? 2.03/24 37...Nc6 0.48 38.Ne4 ½-½ (31) Kurpnieks,V (2077)-Pilgram,K (1999) LSS email 2016 Rxa2 2.75/23 *( 38...Re1±* 1.36/22 *)* 39.f5 Ra3? 6.10/22 *( 39...Re2* 2.82/22 *)* 40.f6 White wants to mate with Ng5. Nc4 41.Rc7 Ra1 42.Ng5 Rg1+

**A)** 43.Kf4 Rf1+ 44.Kg4 1.98/21 *( ⌓44.Kg3* 4.35/22 *Rg1+ 45.Kh4 )* 44...Rxf6? 7.29/20 *( 44...Ne5+* 1.98/21 *45.Kg3 Ke8 )* 45.Nh7+;

**B)** 43.Kh4 Nd6 Prevents Rc8+ 44.Kh5 Rf1 45.Rd7 *( 45.Kg6?* 0.00/34 45.Ne6+ 6.86 *Rxf6+! 46.Kxf6* White threatens Ne6+ and mate. *Ne8+; 45.Ne6+ Kg8*

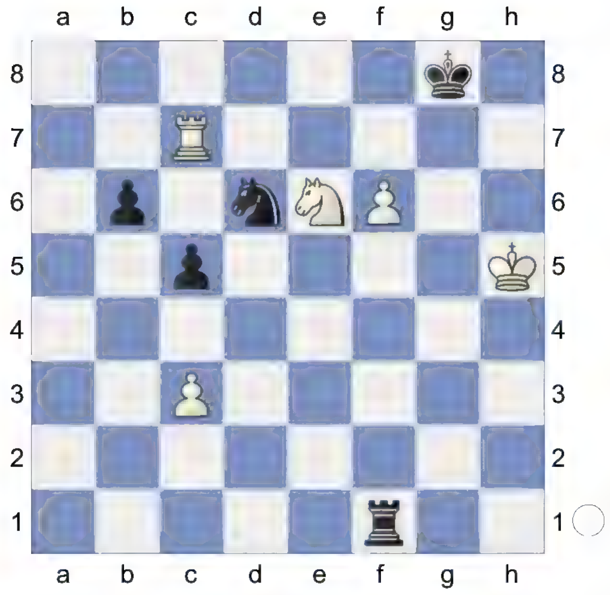
(Diagram)

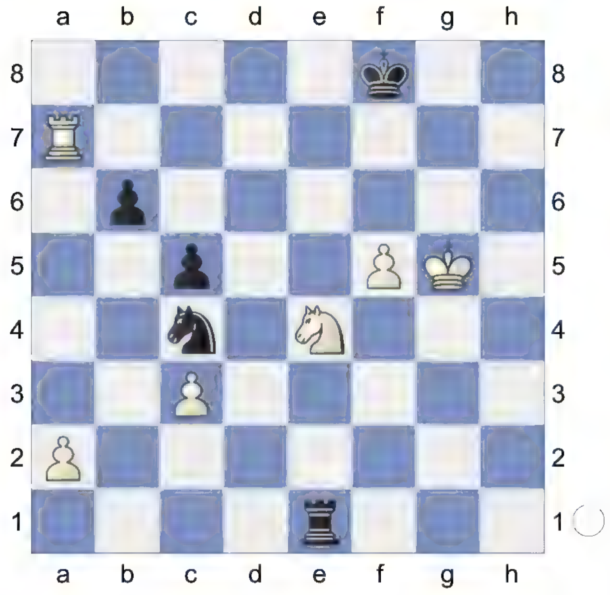
*46.Kg6! )*]

**38.Ne4** White is more active. **38...Nc4! 39.f5 Rf1?** 2.72/21

[ 39...Rg1+? 2.37/21 39...Nd6 0.48 40.Kf4 Hoping for f6. Rf1+ 41.Kg5 Kf6 is the strong threat. Re1

(Diagram)





42.Nf6? 0.17/17 ( *42.Nf2!+- 1.90/19* )]

[ 39...Nd6± 0.67/21 40.Kf4 Rf1+ 41.Ke5 Nxf5 ]

**40.f6+- Ne5?** 5.52/23

[ 40...Rf5 ]

[ 40...Rf5 2.24/22 41.Ra4 Ne3 42.Ra8+ Kf7 ]

**41.Ng5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.40. An unexpected result.

[ 41.Ng5 Vorgänger: 41...Rxf6 ( *41...Ke8 42.Re7+* ) 42.Nh7+ ]

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Santos Latasa,Jaime 2665**
■ **Lu,Shanglei 2605**
WchT Pool-A 13th rapid (2.1) 20.11.2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16* ) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006* ) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.0-0**
Strongly threatening Nb5. **9...cxd4**

**10.e5 Qd8 11.Ne4** White has compensation. White has an edge. **11...0-0 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Rfd1** 13.Rfd1 is better than 13.Rad1. 13.Tfd1 ist besser als 13.Tad1. **13...Qa5 14.a3 Rd8 15.Ng3** -0.19/23

[ 15.b4⩲ 0.45/20 Qb6 16.Rab1 ]

**15...Nd7** 0.44/23

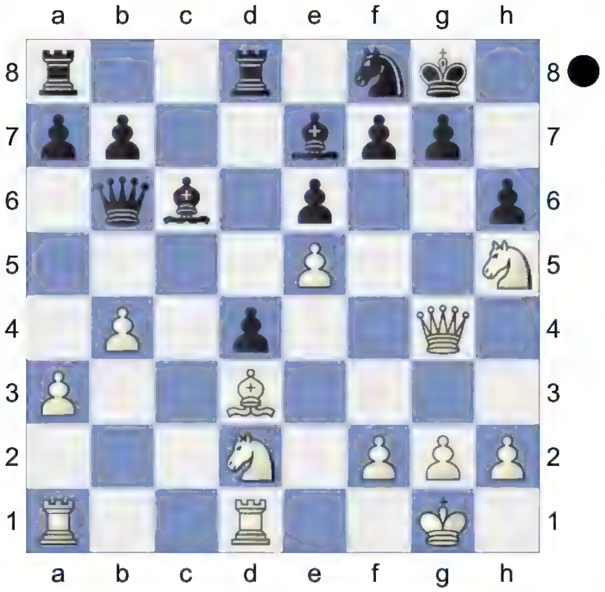
[ 15...Bd7= -0.19/23 ]

**16.Bd3** -0.69/20

[ 16.b4⩲ 0.44/23 Qb6 17.Rxd4 ]

**16...Nf8∓ 17.Nd2N**

[Vorgänger: 17.Nh5 Bd7 18.b4 Qb6 19.Nd2 Bc6 20.Qg4



g6! 21.Nf4 Kg7 -0.22/20 ( *21...Qc7∓ -0.67/21 22.Re1 Rac8* ) 22.Nh5+ -0.63/21 ( *22.b5= -0.22/20 Bd5 23.Rac1* ) 22...Kg8∓ 23.Nf4 Kg7 24.Nh5+ Kg8 25.Nf4! ½-½ (25) Horvath,D (2331)-Predojevic,B (2625) Austria 2018 ]

**17...Bd7 18.f4 Rac8 19.Nf3** -1.50/21

[ 19.b4∓ -0.66/18 Qa4 20.Nf3 ]

**19...a6** -0.87/18

[ ⌓19...Ng6 -1.50/21 20.Nh5 Qb6 ]

**20.Ne4 Bb5** -0.67/21

[ 20...Ba4∓ -1.13/20 21.Rd2 Nd7 ]

**21.Bxb5 axb5 22.b4 Qa4** -0.77/21

[ ⌓22...Qa6 -1.14/21 23.Rxd4 Rc4 24.Rxd8 Bxd8 ]

**23.Ne1** -1.23/21 Dodges d3

[ ⌓23.Rxd4 -0.77/21 Rxd4 24.Nxd4 ]

**23...b6** -0.78/22

[ ⌓23...Rc4 -1.23/21 24.Nd3 Qa6 ]

**24.g3∓ Rc4 25.Qf3 Qa8 26.Kf2** -1.30/21

[White should try 26.h4 -0.87/22 ]

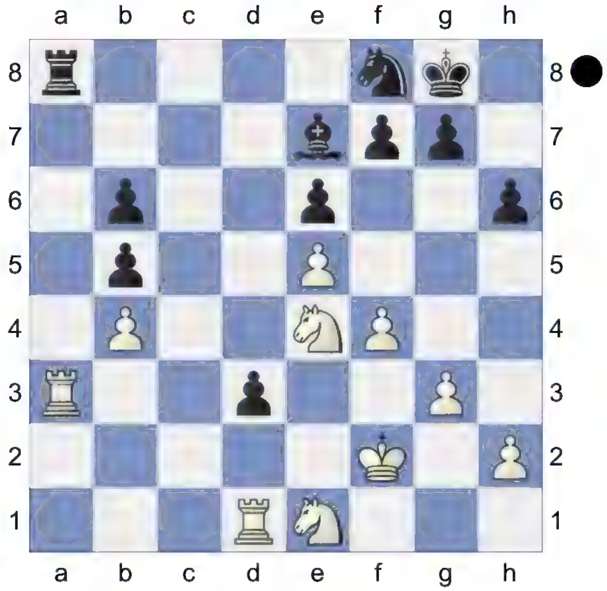
**26...d3 27.Nd2** -2.19/18

[ 27.Nd6∓ -0.95/20 ]

**27...Rc3?** -0.22/18

[Better is 27...Qa7-+ -2.19/18 White must now prevent ...Rc3. 28.Nxc4 bxc4 ]

**28.Qxa8= Rxa8 29.Ne4 Rcxa3 30.Rxa3**



Remove Defender **30...Rxa3 31.Nxd3 g5 32.Ke2 Ng6 33.fxg5 hxg5 34.Rc1 Ra2+ 35.Ke3 Kg7 36.h3 Ra3 37.Rc3 Ra4 38.Rb3 Ra2 39.Kf3** -0.42/24

[ 39.Rc3= -0.01/22 ]

**39...Bd8∓ 40.Rc3** Dodges Bc7 **40...Ne7** Prevents Rc8. **41.Nd6 Nd5 42.Rb3 Be7 43.Nxb5 Ra4** -0.08/20

[ 43...Rc2∓ -0.54/27 ]

**44.Nd6** -0.45/23

[ 44.Nc3= -0.08/20 Nxc3 45.Rxc3 ]

**44...Bxd6** -0.01/17

[ 44...Ra8∓ -0.45/23 45.Ne4 Ra4 ]

**45.exd6** Endgame. KRN-KRN **45...Ra8** And now ...Rd8 would win. **46.Ne5 Rd8 47.Nc4 b5 48.Na3 Rxd6** White should prevent ...Rb6. **49.Nxb5 Rb6 50.Nd4 Rxb4 51.Rxb4 Nxb4=** KN-KN **52.Ke4 Nd5 53.Nf3 f6 54.g4 Nf4 55.h4 Nh3 56.Nd4 gxh4 57.Nxe6+ Kg6 58.Nd4?** -9.07/36 Black keeps a firm grip on the game.

[ 58.Nc5= 0.00/32 ]

**58...Kg5-+ 59.Kf3 Nf4 60.Nf5 Ng6 61.Ne3 Ne5+** Deflection **62.Kg2 Nxg4 63.Nd5 Ne5** Hoping for ...f5. **64.Kh3 Nd3** ...Nf4+ would now be deadly. **65.Kh2 f5 66.Nc3 Kg4 67.Nd5 f4** ( -> ...h3) **68.Nf6+ Kf5** -27.08/26

[ ⌓68...Kg5 -14.02/24 69.Ne4+ Kf5 ]

**69.Nd5 f3 70.Ne3+ Ke4 71.Nd1 Nf4** -18.58/23

[ ⌓71...f2 -#14/22 72.Nxf2+ Nxf2 73.Kg2 Ke3 74.Kf1 h3 75.Kg1 Kf3 76.Kh2 Kg4 77.Kg1 Kg3 78.Kf1 h2 79.Ke2 h1Q *( 79...h1R* gets mated. *80.Kd2 Kf3 81.Kc2 Rh4 82.Kc3 Ke2 83.Kc2 Nd1 84.Kb1 Kd3 85.Ka2 Kc2 86.Ka3 Rg4 87.Ka2 Ra4# )* 80.Kd2 Qc6 81.Ke3 Qc3+ 82.Ke2 Qd3+ 83.Ke1 Qd1# ]

**72.Kg1 Nh3+ 73.Kh2 Ng5 74.Kg1 Kd3 75.Kf2 h3 76.Kg3 Kd2 77.Nf2 Ke2 78.Ng4 Ne4+ 79.Kh4 f2 80.Nxf2 Nxf2** Black mates.

[Not 80...Kxf2 81.Kxh3= ]

**81.Kg3 Ke3 82.Kh2 Kf3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.35/ Black=0.16 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Bacrot,Etienne 2642**
■ **Esipenko,Andrey 2714**
151/137 Berlin 2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4 Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qa5 9.Bd2 Qc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Nb3 Qe7** Hoping for ...Bxb5. White is slightly better. **12.Bd3 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.a3 Bd6 15.f4** Inhibits Ne5. **15...e5 16.f5**

Threatening g4. **16...Nd4 17.Bg5 Bc6** Against Nd5 **18.Nd2** next Nd5! is good for White. **18...Rfd8** 1.11/21

[ 18...Qd8!= 0.13/19 keeps the balance. ]

**19.Kh1** 0.39/20

[Better is 19.Nd5!± 1.11/21 Bxd5 20.exd5 ]

**19...Bc7** 0.99/20

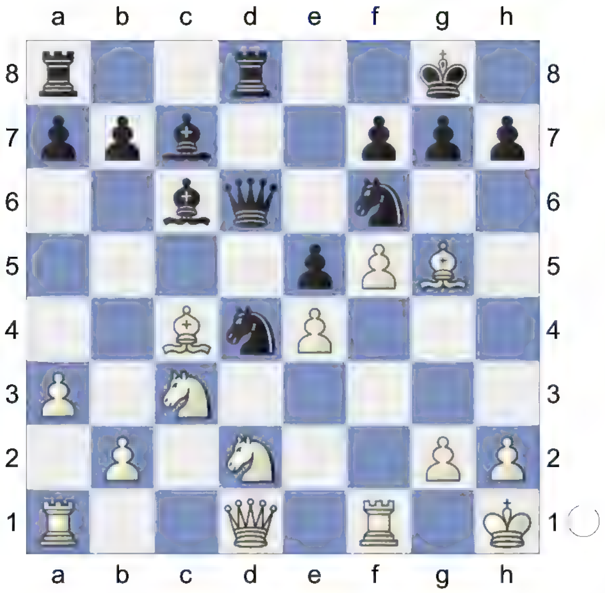
[ 19...Qf8⩲ 0.39/20 ]

**20.Bc4** 0.25/23

[White should try 20.Rc1± 0.99/20 ]

**20...Qd6** 0.78/22

[ 20...Rd7= 0.25/23 ]



Wards off Nd5 **21.Bd5** 0.37/22 **Rd7 22.Nc4 Qe7 23.Qd3 Bd8** 1.08/20

[ 23...h6⩲ 0.57/20 24.Bh4 a5 ]

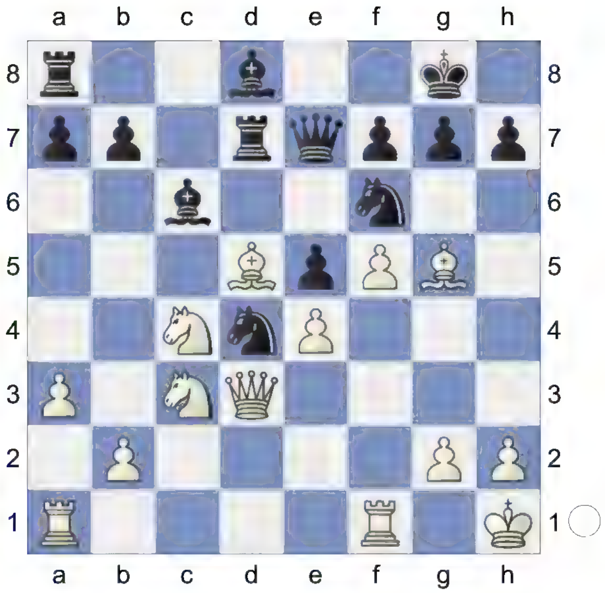
(Diagram)

**24.Qg3!±** And now Bxf6 would win. **24...Nh5** Discovered Attack **25.Qxe5**

[ 25.Bxe7 Nxg3+ 26.hxg3 Rxe7= ]

**25...Qxe5 26.Nxe5 Bxg5 27.Nxd7**

[ 27.Bxc6? Re7 28.Nxf7 Kxf7 29.Bd5+ Kf8-+ ]



**27...Bxd7 28.Rad1! Bb5?** 3.18/23 This costs Black the game.

[ 28...Nc6± 1.15/18 ]

**29.Nxb5+-**

[ 29.Bxb7 Rb8 30.Nxb5 Nxb5 ]

**29...Nxb5 30.Bc4**

[ 30.Bxb7 Rb8 31.Bc6 Nf6 32.Bxb5 Ng4+- ]

**30...a6 31.a4**

[ 31.Rd7 Nf6 32.Bxb5 ( *32.Bxf7+? Kf8-+; 32.Rxf7 Nd6∓* ) 32...Nxd7 ( *32...axb5 33.Rxb7 Nxe4 34.Rxb5=* ) 33.Bxd7 Rd8= ]

**31...Na7**

[ 31...Rc8 32.Be2 Nf4 33.Bg4+- ]

**32.Rd7 Nf6 33.Rxb7 Nc6 34.Bxf7+ Kf8** aiming for ...Nd8! **35.Bd5 Nxd5 36.exd5 Ne5** 1.88/20

[ 36...Na5± 1.46/21 37.Rc7 Bd8 ]

**37.h3** 1.30/22

[ 37.b4+- 1.88/20 ]

**37...Nc4** Repels a5 **38.Re1 Rd8 39.b3 Nd2** 3.27/19

[ ⌓39...Nd6 1.90/21 40.Ra7 Bh4 ]

**40.Re6 Rc8 41.Kg1**

[Stronger than 41.Rxa6 Rc1+ 42.Kh2 Nf1+ 43.Kh1 ( *43.Kg1 Be3+ 44.Kh1 Nd2+ 45.Kh2 Nf1+ 46.Kh1 Nd2+*

*47.Kh2 Nf1+ 48.Kh1= )* 43...Ng3+ 44.Kh2 Nf1+ 45.Kh1 Nd2+ 46.Kh2 Nf1+= ]

**41...Rc2 42.Rc6** White is clearly winning.

[ 42.Rxa6 Be3+ 43.Kh1 Rc1+ 44.Kh2 Nf1+ 45.Kh1 Ng3+ 46.Kh2 Nf1+ 47.Kh1 Nd2+ 48.Kh2 Nf1+= ]

**42...Be3+ 43.Kh1 Nf1 44.h4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.35. Loss on time!?

[Not 44.Rxc2 Ng3+ 45.Kh2 Nf1+ 46.Kh1 Ng3+ 47.Kh2 Nf1+ 48.Kh1= ]

**0-1**

**D24**

**☐ Carlsen,Magnus 2847**

**■ Nepomniachtchi,Ian 2789**

chess24.com (Int.-m1/3-rapid) 148/134

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Aiken: 'Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.Nc3**

[ 12.Qf4 - 142/136 ]

**12...Nb4 13.a3**

[ 13.Qf4 - 142/(136) f5 14.Qg3 0-0 15.h4 Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2818) Saint Louis (rapid) 142/(136) 2019 ]

**13...N4d5 14.Ne4 Qc6 15.Re1N**

[ 15.Qc2 - 148/(134) Nb4 16.axb4 Qxe4 17.Qxe4 Bxe4 18.b5 c6 19.bxc6 Bxc6 20.Nd2 Bd5 21.Nf1 0-0 Winter (2799)-Ronneland,D (2608) Dos Hermanas-A 2001 ]

**15...0-0-0?!** 0.89/19

[ 15...a5! 16.Qc2 h6

**A)** 17.Ng3 g5!? ...g4 would now be deadly. 18.Bf1 0-0-0 19.Nh5 -0.09/18 *( 19.Be3!⩲* 0.63/18 *)* 19...Kb8!∞;

**B)** 17.Bd2 Ne3 *( 17...Nf4* Strongly threatening ...Nxg2. *18.Bf1 Nd3 19.Bxd3 cxd3 20.Qxd3 Qc4 21.Qb1⩲ )* 18.Bxe3 *( 18.Nf6+ gxf6 19.Bxe3 Rg8⇄ )* 18...Qxe4 19.Qxe4 Bxe4 20.Nd2 Bd5 21.Rec1 Kd7 22.Nxc4 Nxc4 23.Bxc4 Rhb8 24.Bxd5 exd5 25.Rc2 Rb3=∞ ]

[ 15...h6⩲ 0.46/22 ]

**16.Bf1± f5 17.exf6! gxf6 18.Qe2 Kb8 19.Bd2 Rhg8 20.Rac1 Bd6 21.g3 f5**

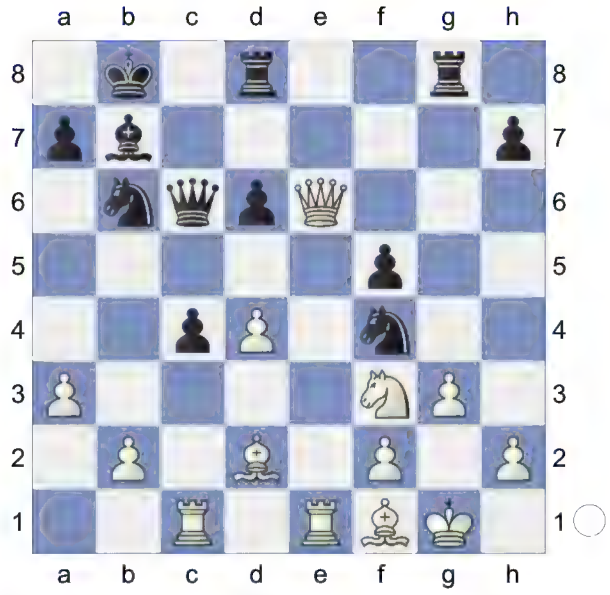
[ 21...Nf4 22.Bxf4 Bxf4 23.Rc3!± ]

**22.Nxd6**

[ 22.Nc5!? Bxc5 23.Ne5! Qd6 24.dxc5 Qxc5 25.Nxc4± ]

**22...cxd6 23.Bg2?!** 0.34/18

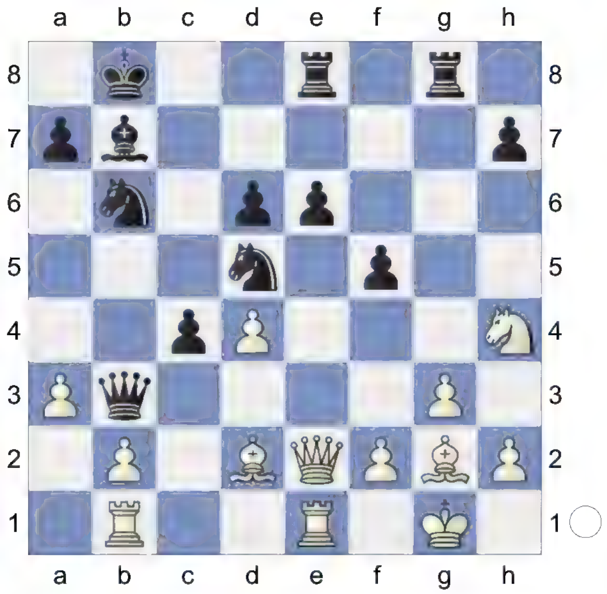
[ 23.Qxe6 Nf4 2.54/23 *( 23...f4±* 1.21/22 *)*



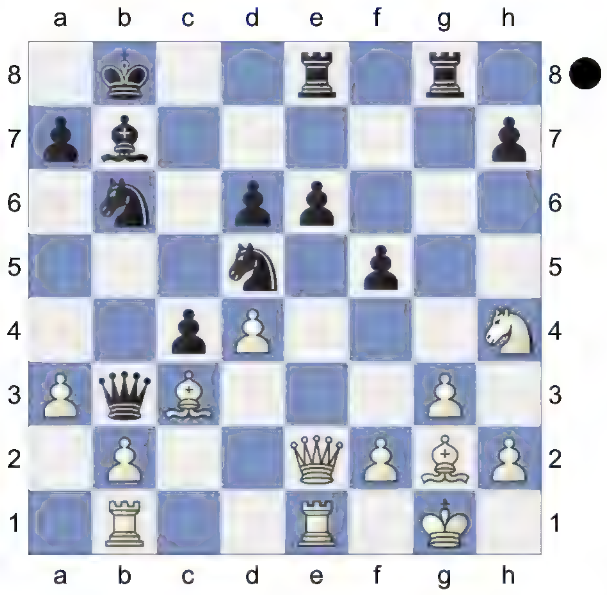
24.d5!+- Nfxd5 ...Nc7 is the strong threat. 25.Nd4! Qc7 26.Bg2± ]

[ 23.Qxe6± 1.19/20 Qb5 24.b4 *( 24.Qxf5 Rdf8± )*]

**23...Rde8!± 24.Nh4 Qb5 25.Rb1 Qb3**



**26.Bc3?** -0.11/20 Diagram



**26...Nf4!= 27.gxf4 Rg4! 28.h3! Rxh4 29.Bxb7 Kxb7 30.Qf3+ Ka6** And now ...Nd5 would win.

[ 30...Nd5?! 31.Rxe6 Rg8+ 32.Kh2± ]

**31.d5?** -2.04/17 Loses the game. **31...Nxd5-+** White must now prevent ...Rg8+. **32.Rxe6?** -3.90/17

[ 32.Qg3 -2.23/18 keeps fighting. Rh6 ( *32...Rxf4 33.Rbd1∓* ) 33.Kh2 ]

**32...Rxe6 33.Qxd5 Rg6+ 34.Kf1 Qb5** Repels Qc6+

[ 34...Rxh3 35.Qa5+ Kb7 36.Qxf5 Rh1+ 37.Ke2 Rxb1 38.Qxb1∓ ]

**35.Rd1 Qxd5**

[Don't play 35...Rxh3 36.a4 Qxd5 ( *36...Qxa4?* perishes. *37.b3+-* ) 37.Rxd5-+ ]

**36.Rxd5 Rxf4** Endgame. KRR-KRB **37.Bd4 Rf3** Black is clearly winning. **38.Be3 f4 39.Rf5 Re6 40.Bd4 Re4 41.Kg2 Rd3 42.Bc3 d5 43.Rf6+ Kb5 44.Rf7 d4 45.Bb4 Re2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/Black=0.10 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D44**

☐ **Cheparinov,Ivan** **2672**
■ **Lagarde,Maxime** **2626**
EU-ch 22nd Terme Catez (11) 06.04.2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16*) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6*

*Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.h4 g4 12.Ne5 Rxg7 13.h5 f5! 14.g3** White has compensation.

[ 14.Be2 simplifies Qg5 15.Kf1 Bxc3 16.bxc3 a6 17.f3 ]

**14...Qd5** Dodges Bg2 **15.Rh2** White has an edge.

[ 15.h6!? Rh7□ 16.Rh5± ]

**15...Qe4+ 16.Be2 Nd7 17.h6 Rh7 18.Nxd7 Bxc3+ 19.bxc3 Kxd7 20.Qd2 Bb7 21.Kf1 Rah8 22.Re1 Qd5** Strongly threatening ...c5. **23.Bd1! Qd6** aiming for ...Qf8. **24.Re5! a6** Threatens to win with ...Qf8.

[ 24...Qf8 simplifies 25.axb5 Rxh6 26.Rxh6 Qxh6 27.Qxh6 Rxh6 28.Ke1 Kc7 ]

**25.Qe3 Bc8** 0.42/25

[ 25...c5 26.Rxc5 Bc6 27.axb5 axb5 28.Rh5± ]

[ 25...b4= 0.00/21 feels stronger. ]

**26.f3 gxf3 27.Bxf3** -0.10/22

[ 27.axb5!⩲ 0.54/18 axb5 28.Bxf3 *( 28.Qxf3? Rxh6 29.Rxh6 Rxh6∓ )*]

**27...Kd8** 0.50/19

[ 27...bxa4= -0.10/22 28.Rc5 Bb7 ]

**28.axb5⩲ axb5 29.Qf4** 0.10/22

[ 29.Qg5+⩲ 0.48/19 Kc7 30.Qf4 ]

**29...Bd7!= 30.Ra2 Rxh6 31.Ra8+ Kc7! 32.Ra7+ Kc8 33.Ra8+ Kc7 34.Ra7+ Kc8 35.Kg1** -0.36/23

[ 35.Ra8+= 0.00/23 Kc7 ]

**35...Qb8!⩱ 36.Ra6 b4! 37.cxb4**

[ 37.Bxc6? Bxc6 38.Rxc6+ Kd7 39.Rxc4 b3-+ *( 39...Rh1+? 40.Kf2-+; 39...Rh1+? 40.Kf2-+ )*]

**37...Qxb4 38.Ra1** -1.08/22 Against Qb1+

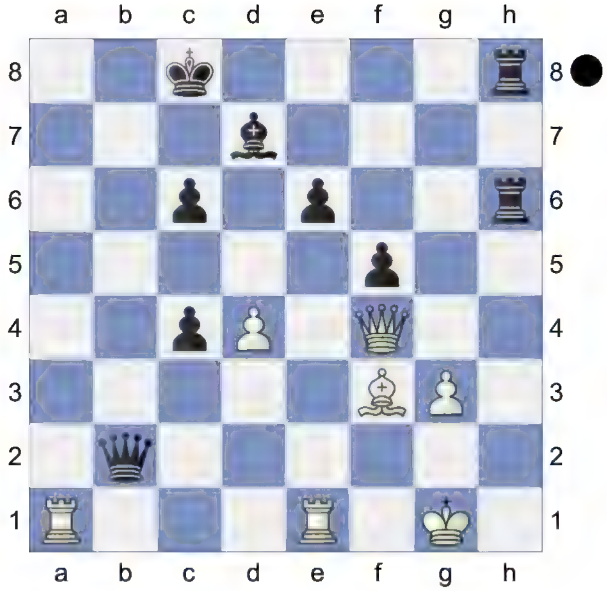
[White should try 38.Ra8+⩱ -0.70/19 Kb7 39.Ra1 ]

**38...Qb2?** 1.33/19

[ 38...Qb8!⩱ -1.08/22 and life is bright. Hoping for ...Rg6. 39.Qd2 Rg6 ]

**39.Ree1?** -5.37/22

[ 39.Rea5± 1.33/19 White threatens Ra8+ and mate. Rh1+ Decoy 40.Bxh1 Qh2+ Deflection 41.Kf1 Qxh1+ 42.Ke2 Rh2+ 43.Ke3 Qe4+ 44.Qxe4 fxe4 45.Rc1 *( 45.Kxe4 Kc7+- )*]



Some like it hot **39...Kd8?** 0.33/23

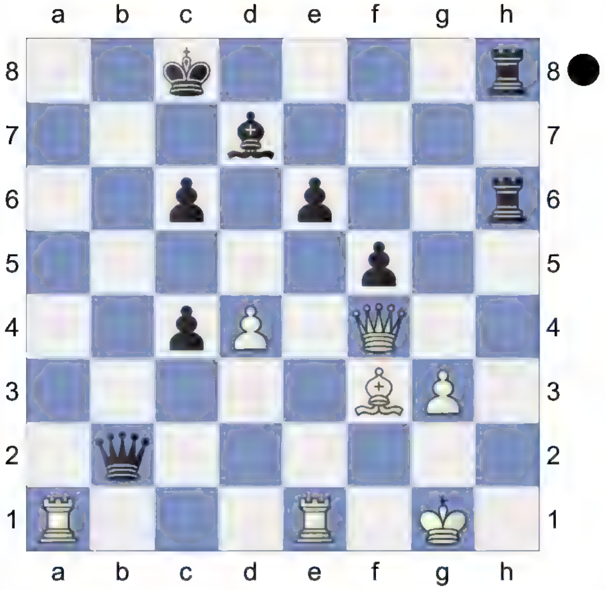
[ 39...Rh2!-+ -5.37/22 40.Qe3 f4 41.Ra8+ Kc7 *( 41...Kb7? 42.Rxh8-+ )* 42.Rxh8 *( 42.Qe5+? Kb7-+ )* 42...Rg2+ *( 42...fxe3? 43.Rxh2 Qxd4 44.Rd1-+ )* 43.Bxg2 fxe3 ]

**40.Qg5+?** -1.96/22

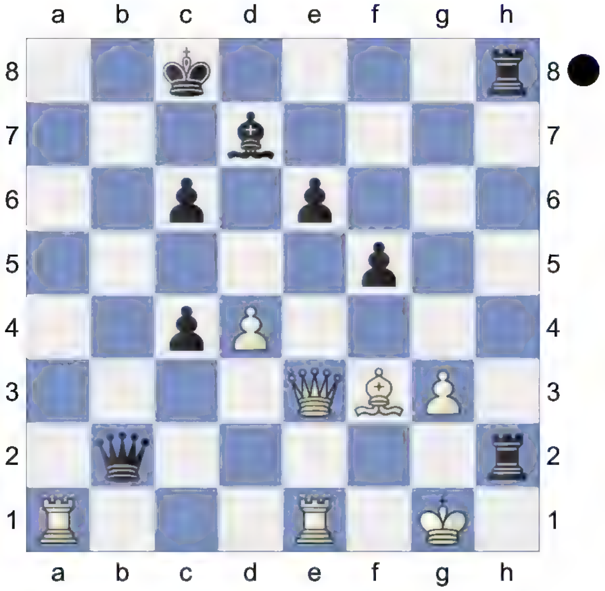
[ 40.Ra7± 0.33/23 keeps the upper hand. Ke8 41.g4 ]

**40...Kc8-+** ( -> ...Rh1+!) **41.Qf4?** -5.67/20

[ 41.Ra8+ -1.80/19 Kb7 42.Rxh8 Qxd4+ ( *42...Rxh8 43.Qg7=* ) 43.Kg2 Qb2+ ( *43...Rxh8 44.Rd1±; 43...Qxh8 44.Qe7∓* ) 44.Kf1 Rxh8 ( *44...Qxh8 45.Qe7∓* ) 45.Qe7 ]



**41...Rh2!** Black is clearly winning. **42.Qe3**



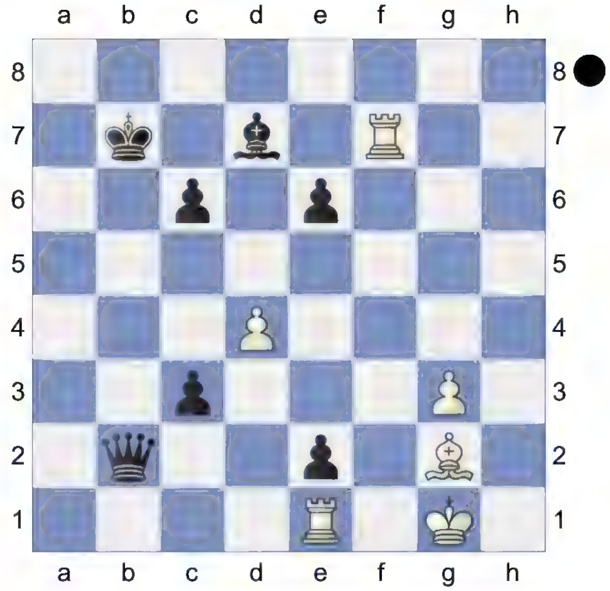
Prevents Qf2+ **42...f4! 43.Ra8+**

[ 43.gxf4 R8h3 ]

**43...Kb7 44.Rxh8 Rg2+**

[ 44...Rxh8 45.Re2 Qa1+ 46.Re1 fxe3 47.Rxa1∓ ]

**45.Bxg2 fxe3 46.Rf8 c3 47.Rff1 e2 48.Rf7**



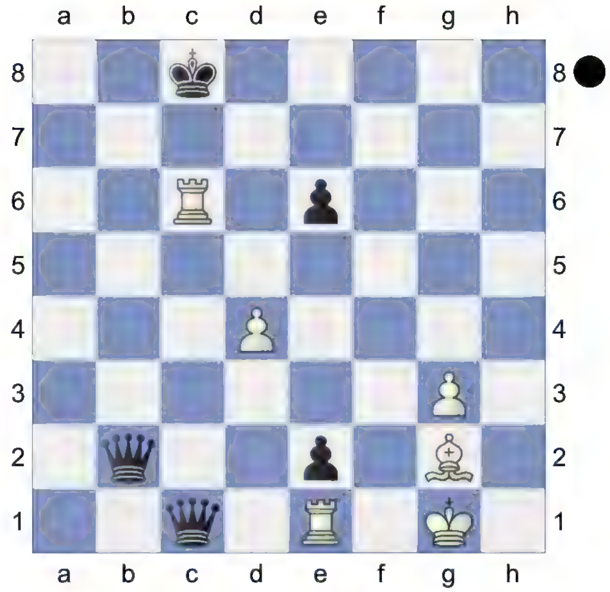
**c2! 49.Rxd7+**

[ 49.Kf2 Qxd4+ ]

**49...Kc8 50.Rd6 c1Q**

[ 50...c1B 51.Rxe6 ( *51.Bxc6?* is the wrong capture. *Be3+ 52.Kh2 Bf2-+; 51.Rxc6+ Kd7±* ) 51...Qxd4+ 52.Kh2= ]

**51.Rxc6+**



**Qxc6!! 52.Bxc6 Qxd4+** Endgame. KQ-

KRB **53.Kg2 Qc3! 54.Rxe2 Qxc6+** KQ-KR **55.Kg1 Kd7 56.Rg2 Qc1+ 57.Kh2 Qh6+ 58.Kg1 Qe3+ 59.Kh2 Ke7 60.g4 Kf6** Weighted Error Value: White=0.61/Black=0.24 (precise) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Martirosyan,Haik M** **2678**

■ **Makarian,Rudik** **2530**

Wch Blitz Samarkand (5) 29.12.2023

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Bb7**

[9...Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 *( 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2 30.R3b2 Rxb2 31.Rxb2 a5* 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) *)* 17...Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6 (2539) TCh-RUS Sochi RUS 2005 ]

**10.a3** **Ne7N** An interesting novelty. Eine interessante Neuerung.

[Vorgänger: 10...Qd7 11.Nc3 *( 11.0-0 Be7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Qc2 Na5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 11...Ne7 12.0-0 Nf5 13.Qc1 -0.20/25 *( ⌓13.b3 0.25/21 )* 13...Be7= 14.Rd1 0-0 15.d5! Nxe3 16.dxe6 Qxe6 0.31/20 *( 16...Qc6!= -0.15/23 17.exf7+ Rxf7 18.fxe3 Qg6 )* 17.Qxe3 ½-½ Santos Latasa,J (2672)-Yuffa,D (2594) ESP-ch 87th Linares 2022 (6) ]

**11.Qc2** -0.19/21

[ 11.a4± 0.37/21 ]

**11...a6** 0.18/20

[ ⌓11...Nf5 -0.19/21 ]

**12.Nc3= Nf5 13.Rd1 Be7 14.0-0 0-0 15.Bc1** -0.55/23

[ 15.Ne4= -0.14/20 ]

**15...Rb8** 0.27/20

[Black should play 15...Bxf3∓ -0.55/23 16.Bxf3 Nxd4 ]

**16.Be3** -0.63/19

[White should try 16.d5!= 0.27/20 Qd7 17.g4 ]

**16...Qe8∓ 17.Rd2 c5 18.Rfd1** -1.14/22

[ ⌓18.Nd1 -0.73/21 ]

**18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 cxd4 20.Rxd4 Bc5**

[ 20...h6 simplifies 21.Ne4 Bxe4 22.Rxe4 Qc6 ]

**21.Rh4** -1.21/23

[ 21.Ng5!∓ -0.70/23 g6 22.Nge4 ]

**21...Bxe3+** A strong pair of Bishops. **22.Kh1 h6 23.Ne4 Qa4 24.Qb1 Rfd8** -0.51/19

[ 24...Qa5∓ -1.12/20 25.Rf1 Na4 26.Bxc4 Nc5 *( 26...Nxb2? 27.Neg5+- )*]

**25.Rf1!** aiming for Neg5! **25...Nd5?** 3.15/23

[ 25...Qe8∓ -0.55/21 ]

**26.Rg4?** -0.46/21

[White has to play 26.Neg5!+- 3.15/23 f5 *( 26...Bxg5? 27.Nxg5+- )* 27.exf6 *( 27.Nxe6 g6+- )* 27...Nxf6 *( 27...Bxg5? 28.Nxg5 Nxf6 29.Rxf6+- Remove Defender)* 28.Bxc4

*( 28.Nxe6 Rd5+- )* 28...Qxc4 29.Rxc4 hxg5 30.Qg6 ]

**26...Kf8?** 4.85/19

[ 26...Bf4∓ -0.46/21 stays ahead. ]

**27.Nd6+- Rxd6 28.exd6** 2.72/20

[ ⌓28.Qh7 4.65/23 Ke7 29.exd6+ Kxd6 30.Qxg7 *( 30.Rxg7 Nf6+-; 30.Rxc4 Qe8+- )*]

**28...Nf6?** 5.58/21

[ 28...f5 2.72/20 29.Ne5 *( 29.Rxc4 Qd7± )* 29...Kg8 ]

**29.Rxc4** 2.55/21

[ ⌓29.Ne5 5.58/21 Intending Qh7! and mate. Bd4 *( 29...Qb5 30.Rxf6 Qxe5 31.Qh7* Double Attack *Ke8 32.Qh8+* Deflection *Kd7 33.Rxf7+ Kc6 34.Qxb8 Qxb2 35.Qc7+* Deflection *Kb5 36.Bxc4+ Ka4 37.Bb5+ Kxa3 38.Ra4+ Kb3 39.Qc4# )* 30.Rxf6 *( 30.Rxd4 Be4+- )* 30...Ke8 31.Qh7 *( 31.Rxf7 Bxg2+ 32.Rxg2 Kd8 33.Rf8+* Skewer *Qe8 34.Rxe8+ Kxe8 35.Qg6+ Kd8 )* 31...Bxe5 32.Qg8+ Deflection *( 32.Rxc4 Bxg2+ 33.Kxg2 Qxc4+- )* 32...Kd7 33.Rxf7+ *( 33.Qxb8 Bxg2+* Decoy *34.Kxg2 Qc6+ 35.Bf3 Bxf6 36.Bxc6+ Kxc6 37.Qc7+ Kd5; 33.Qxf7+ Kc6 34.Qc7+ Kb5 35.Rxc4 Qxc4 36.a4+ Kb4 37.Qxc4+ Ka5 38.Qc5+ Kxa4 39.Bd1# )* 33...Kxd6 34.Qxb8+ Kc5 35.b4+ *( 35.Qxe5+ Bd5 36.Rb7 Qc2 37.Rxc4+ Qxc4 38.b4+ Qxb4 39.axb4+ Kc6 40.Qc7# )* 35...Qxb4 36.Qa7+ *( 36.axb4+ Kb5 37.Qxe5+ Ka4 38.Bd1+ Ka3 39.Qc3+ Ka2 40.Rf2+ Kb1 41.Qb2#; 36.Qf8+ Bd6 37.axb4+ Kb5 38.Rxb7+ Ka4 39.Qf3 Bxb4 40.Bxc4 h5 41.Qb3+ Ka5 42.Qxb4# )* 36...Kd6 37.axb4 *( 37.Qb8+ Kc5 38.Qa7+ Qb6 39.Rxc4+ Kb5 40.Rb4+ Kc5 41.Qxb6+ Kd5 42.Bf3# )* 37...Bd4 38.Qxd4+ *( 38.Qb8+ Kc6 39.Qxb7+ Kd6 40.Rxd4+ Ke5 41.Qe4# )* 38...Bd5 39.Qc5+ Ke5 40.Qc7# ]

**29...Qd7 30.Qd3 Bb6 31.Ne5 Qd8** 7.83/19

[ 31...Qb5 3.92/19 ]

**32.d7** Black must now prevent Rxf6!

**32...Bd5 33.Rb4 Bc7 34.Rxb8 Bxb8 35.Qd4** 2.64/22

[ ⌓35.Qc3 4.49/24 Hoping for Qc5+. Bxe5 36.Qc5+ *( 36.Qxe5 Nxd7 37.Qd6+ Kg8+- )* 36...Kg8 37.Qc8 ]

**35...Bxe5?** 4.35/25

[ 35...Kg8 2.64/22 36.Qc5 *( 36.Bxa6 Bxe5 37.Qxe5 Qxd7+- )* 36...Nxd7 *( 36...Bxe5? 37.Qc8+- )* 37.Nxf7 Nxc5 38.Nxd8 Ba7 ]

**36.Qxe5 Qxd7 37.Qb8+**

[ 37.Bxa6 Bxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Qc6+ 39.Rf3 Qxa6± ]

**37...Ne8 38.Qb6**

[ 38.Bxa6 Bxg2+ 39.Kxg2 Qc6+ 40.Rf3 Qxa6= ]

**38...Kg8 39.Bxa6 Nf6 40.Qb8+ Kh7 41.Bd3+** 1.66/24

[ ⌓41.Bb5 3.07/23 Bxg2+ Decoy 42.Kxg2 Qd2+ 43.Kf3 ]

**41...Ne4** 2.62/26

[ ⌓41...Be4 1.66/24 42.Bxe4+ Nxe4 ]

**42.Qf4 f5 43.Qe3 Qb7 44.b4 Nf6 45.Qe2** 0.85/21

[ 45.Rg1+- 1.93/21 has better winning chances. ]

**45...Qa7±**

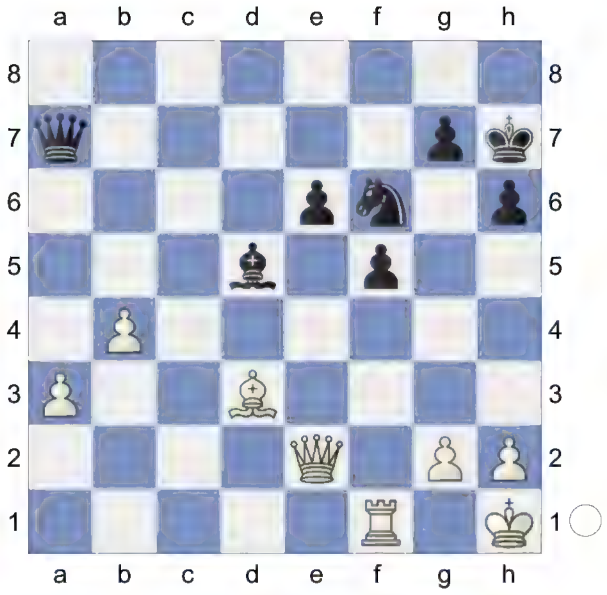
(Diagram)

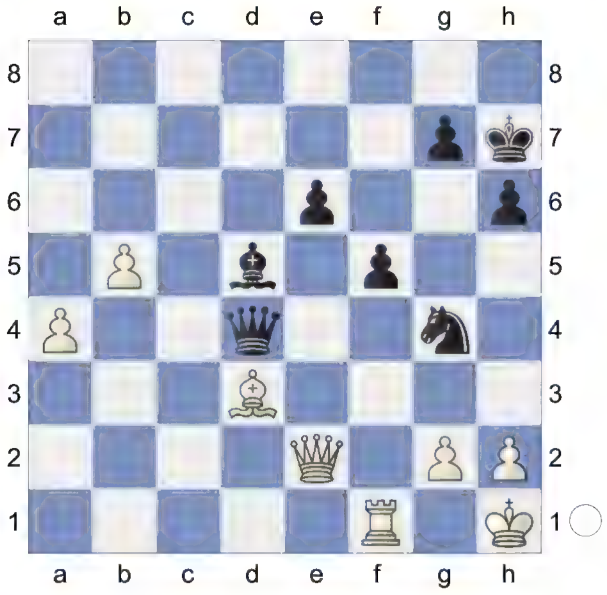
**46.a4** 0.52/23 **Qd4** 1.03/24

[Better is 46...Qxa4± 0.52/23 47.Bc4 Qc6 ]

**47.b5! Ng4?** 2.63/24

[ 47...Qxa4± 1.02/19 48.Qe3 Ne4 ]





**48.h3?** 0.07/20

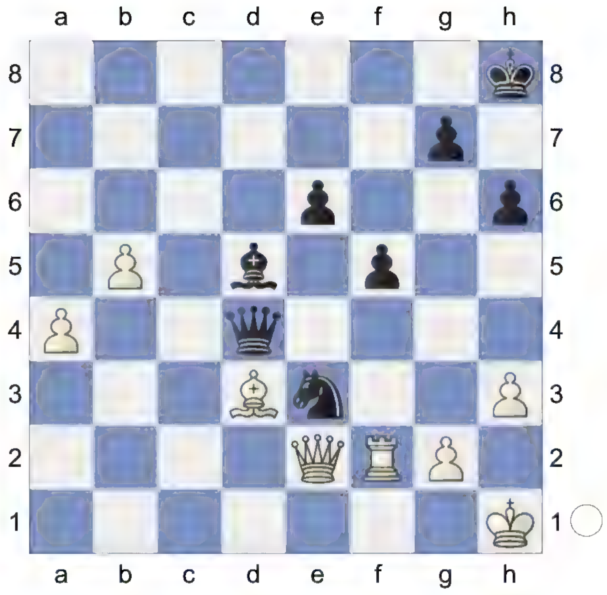
[ 48.a5 Ne3 49.Rg1 Qf4= ]

[Only move: 48.Rxf5!+- 2.63/24 exf5 49.Bxf5+ Kh8 50.Bxg4 Qxa4 51.h3 ]

**48...Ne3= 49.Rf2** Qd2 would now be deadly. **49...Kh8?** 2.29/25

[ 49...Qa1+= 0.06/21 and Black has nothing to worry. 50.Kh2 Qe5+ 51.g3 Qa1 ]

(Diagram)



**50.Kh2?** 0.00/36

[ 50.a5 Qa1+ 51.Kh2 Qe5+ 52.g3 Qa1= ]

[ 50.Qd2!+- 2.29/25 ]

**50...Qe5+ 51.Kg1** Strongly threatening Qd2. **51...Qa1+! 52.Kh2 Qe5+ 53.g3** And now Qb2 would win. **53...Qa1 54.g4?** -#17/22

[ 54.Qxe3? Qh1# ]

[ 54.Be4? Bxe4 *( 54...fxe4? 55.Qxe3 Qxa4 56.b6+- )* 55.Rf3 Bxf3 56.Qxf3 Qb2+ 57.Kg1 Nd5-+ ]

[ 54.Rf3= 0.00/22 Bxf3 55.Qxf3 ]

**54...Qe5+ 55.Kg1 Qg3+ 56.Rg2 Nxg2**

[ 56...Qxg2+ 57.Qxg2 Nxg2 *( 57...Bxg2 58.a5+- )* 58.b6± ]

**57.Qf2 Qxd3 58.b6 Qb1+** -16.44/19

[ □58...Ne3 -#11/15 59.Kh2 Qe4 *( 59...fxg4 leads to mate. 60.b7 Bxb7 61.Qf8+ Kh7 62.Qf2 g3+ Decoy 63.Kxg3 Nf1+ Discovered Attack (Double Check) 64.Kh4 g5+ Deflection 65.Kh5 Qxh3+ 66.Qh4 Qxh4# )* 60.Kg3 Qe5+ *( 60...fxg4 is a self mate. 61.Qf8+ Kh7 62.Qf2 Nf5+ 63.Qxf5+ Qxf5 64.hxg4 Qf3+ 65.Kh4 g5+ 66.Kh5 Qh3# )* 61.Qf4 Nf1+ Deflection 62.Kf2 Qxf4+ 63.Ke1

Bc4 64.gxf5 Qd2# ]

**59.Kh2 Ne1** Black mates. **60.Qc5 Qb2+ 61.Kg3 Qg2+ 62.Kf4 Qe4+ 63.Kg3 Qg2+ 64.Kf4 Nd3+** -14.97/5 Never resign too early!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.90/ Black=0.60

[ ⌓64...Qh2+ -#4/15 65.Ke3 f4+ ( *65...Qxh3+? 66.Ke2-+* ) 66.Kd4 Nf3+ 67.Kd3 Qd2# ]

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Muradli,Mahammad** **2539**

■ **Le,Quang Liem** **2728**

Airthings Masters Play In rapid (3)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5 7.a4** 7.a4 is better than 7.e5. 7.a4 ist besser als 7.e5. **7...c5 8.axb5 cxd4 9.Nxd4** White is slightly better. **9...h6 10.Bxf6** 10.Be3 is not played anymore. 10.Le3 wird inzwischen seltener gespielt. **10...Qxf6 11.Qa4!?N** -0.30/22 An interesting novelty. Eine interessante Neuerung.

[Vorgänger: 11.Bxc4 And now 0-0 would win. Bb7 12.0-0 b6! would now be deadly. 0-0 13.Nf3 Rd8 14.Qb3 Bc5 15.Na4 Bf8 16.Qe3 Nd7 17.Rad1 -0.18/22 0-1 (43) Wei,Y (2727)-Aronian,L (2775) chess24.com INT 2022 ( *17.Be2* 0.19/21 is more appropriate. )]

[ ⌓11.Bxc4 0.09/24 Bb7 12.0-0 ]

**11...Bc5= 12.Nf3** Strongly threatening b6+. **12...Nd7 13.Bxc4 0-0 14.0-0 Bb7** Black has compensation. **15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Be2** -1.08/24

[ 16.Qc2∓ -0.35/22 ]

(Diagram)

**16...Bb6** -0.22/21

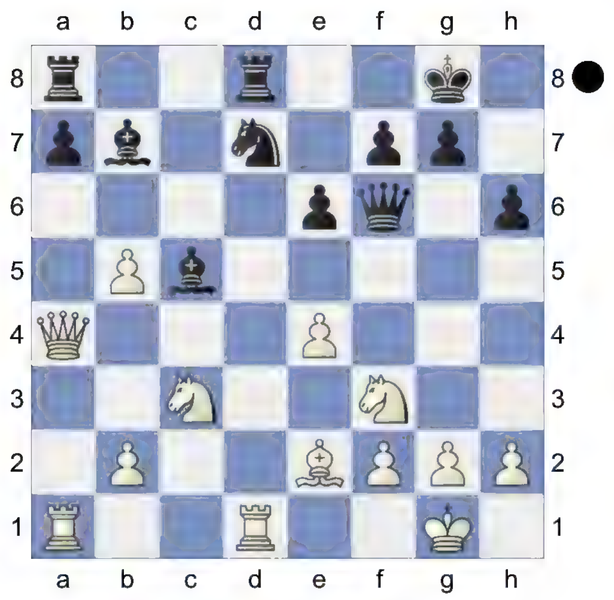
[ 16...g5!∓ -1.08/24 ...g4 is the strong threat. 17.h3 h5 ]

**17.Qc2 g5 18.Na4 Rac8 19.Qb1 Bc7 20.g3 Ne5**

[ 20...g4 is interesting. 21.Nd2 Ne5 22.Nc4 Nxc4 23.Bxc4 Be5 ]

**21.Rxd8+ Rxd8 22.Ra3 Qe7** 0.20/23 Inhibits Nc5.

[ ⌓22...Nxf3+ -0.29/21 23.Rxf3 Qe5 ]

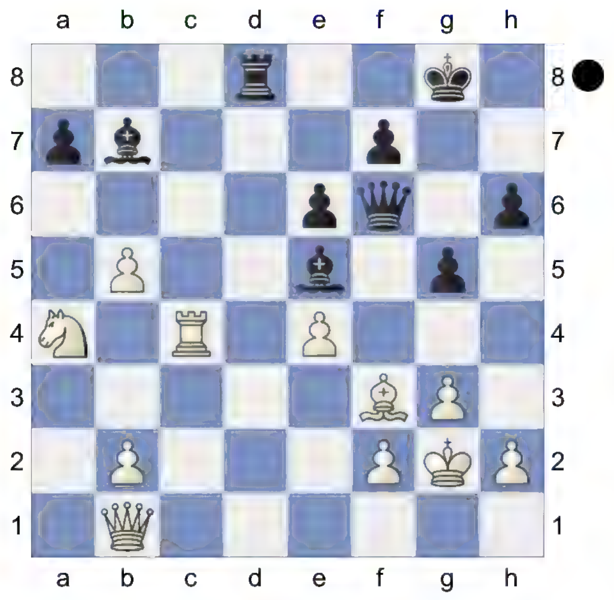


**23.Rc3** -0.31/25

[ 23.b4= 0.20/23 ]

**23...Nxf3+ 24.Bxf3 Be5 25.Rc4 Qf6 26.Kg2** -1.00/24

[ 26.Bg2= -0.27/20 keeps the balance. ]



**26...Rd4** -0.08/23

[Better is 26...Bd4!∓ -1.00/24 27.Rc7 g4 28.Bxg4 Qxf2+ 29.Kh3 f5 *( 29...h5 30.Bxh5 Bxe4 31.Qxe4∓ )* 30.Bxf5 exf5 31.Rxb7 Qe2 32.Qa2+ *( 32.exf5? too greedy. Qh5+ 33.Kg2 Qe2+ 34.Kh3 Bf6-+ )* 32...Kh8 ]

**27.Rxd4** The position is equal.

[ 27.Qc1 looks sharper. g4 28.Bxg4 Bxe4+ 29.f3 ]

**27...Bxd4** This pair of bishops is nice. **28.Qc2 h5 29.Bxh5 Bxe4+** Deflection **30.Qxe4 Qxf2+ 31.Kh3** Hoping for Qf3. **31...Qf1+ 32.Qg2 Qf5+ 33.g4 Qd3+ 34.Qg3 Qf1+ 35.Qg2 Qd3+ 36.Qg3 Qf1+ 37.Qg2 Qd3+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.15 (very precise)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Ding,Liren** **2805**

■ **Wang,Hao** **2762**

Candidates Tournament (1) 17.03.2020

*[Romain, Ed, Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4** Edouard, Romain **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5** The latest fashion against the English Opening, when here 4.Nc3 is supposed to be critical. The latest fashion against the English Opening, when here 4.Nc3 is supposed to be critical. Edouard, Romain: 'The latest fashion against the English Opening, when here 4. ♘c3 is supposed to be critical.

' **4.Nc3!? dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7** Edouard, Romain: 'N' **9.Ne5** White has compensation. **9...0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6**

[ 10...Kh8 Edouard, Romain 11.Qh3 Qe8 12.Bd3 with ideas like ...Bf8 and ...d5 would allow with ideas like ...Bf8 and ...d5 would allow Edouard, Romain: 'with ideas like ... ♗f8 and ...

d5 would allow' f5!? which generally gives good positions to White, e.g. 13.Re1 ]

[ 10...Bf6 11.Re1 Nc6 0.87/21 *( 11...c5!± 0.45/21 )* 12.Bb3 *( 12.Rb1 )*

**A)** 12...Ne7 1.30/18 12...a5 0.69 13.Ba3 Bd7 1.89/18 *( 13...a5± 1.27/21 )* 14.Rad1+- a5? 3.74/19 *( 14...Bc6 1.82/20 15.h4 a5 )* 15.Nxd7+- Qxd7 16.d5! Kh8= Edouard, Romain: 'Ding Liren (2811)-Grischuk,A (2759) Khanty-Mansiysk 2019.'1-0 (42) Ding Liren (2811)-Grischuk,A (2759) Khanty-Mansiysk 2019. 17.dxe6!? Qc8!? 18.Qh5 fxe6 19.Bxe7!? White wants to mate with Bc2! Ding had two games against other moves and equalized comfortably. Ding had two games against other moves and equalized comfortably. Edouard, Romain: 'Ding had two games against other moves and equalised comfortably.' Bxe7 20.Bc2;

**B)** 12...Bd7 13.Bf4 *( 13.Re3?!; 13.Rb1 )* 13...Ne7 14.Rad1 Bxe5? 2.65/23 *( 14...Ng6± 1.02/22* is a better defense.*)* 15.dxe5+- Qe8 Here White seems to have two appealing choices. 16.Bg5!? This was the beginning of Anton's brillancy against Grischuk. Nf5 17.Bc2;

**C)** 12...g6± Earlier Ding had to face 13.Qf3 and although Black equalized, there were surely a bunch of options for White to try to get a small advantage: *( 13.Ba4* 0.36/19 13.h4 0.86*)* 13...Nxe5 *( 13...Rb8 )* 14.dxe5 Bg5 15.Ba3! Be7 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxb7 Rfc8 ]

**11.Re1**

[ 11.Bh6 Bf6=∞ Giri,A (2776)-Anand,V (2757) Kolkata blitz 2019 ]

**11...f5**

[ 11...Bf6 0.87/19 11...f5 0.33 ]

[ 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Threatens to win with Bh6. Kh8 13.Qh3 *( 13.Rd1 )* 13...Bd7 *( 13...Qd7* 0.86/20 13...f5 0.25*)* 14.Bd3 g6! was completely fine for Black in Giri,A (2776)-Anand,V (2757) Kolkata 2019, although Black lost on time in a winning position on move 44. 15.Bh6 Edouard, Romain Rg8 16.Be4 ]

[ 11...Kh8 12.Bf4 Nxe5 13.dxe5 *( 13.Bxe5 )* 13...f5 *( 13...Bd7 )* 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Rad1 Prevents e5. Qe7! 16.Be5 *( 16.Bd3 )* 16...Qf7 0.63/22 *( 16...Bxe5= 0.20/19 17.Rxe5 Bd7 )* 17.Qf4 Qe7! 18.Re2 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Rb8 20.f4 ]

**12.Qf3 Nxe5** There was nothing wrong with 12...h6, 12...Be6 or 12...Bd7 either. There was nothing wrong with 12...h6, 12...Be6 or 12...Bd7 either. Edouard, Romain: 'There was nothing wrong with 12...h6, 12...♗e6 or 12...♗d7 either.

' **13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1**

[ 14.Bxe6 Bd6± Lutikov,A-Kotov,A Ivanovo 1951 15.Re2 Bxe6 16.Rxe6=∞ Qd7∓ ]

[ 14.Bf4!?↑ g5 *( 14...Bd6 15.Re2± Bxf4±* transposes to Ding Liren-Carlsen. *16.Qxf4 )* 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Re2 *( 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qf6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8 21.Re3 h6 22.Qh2 b5 23.Bf1 Kh7 24.Qxh4 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 26.Bd3 Rg6 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.fxg3 Bb7 29.Bc2 Rf8 30.g4 Qg6*

↑-↑ (35) 11... ♕c7 12. ♘bd2 cd4 13.c, 4 (2769)-Wastfelt,T (2677) Bosna i Hercegovina (rapid) 89/187 2003 (3)*)*

16...Qf6⇄ 17.Rae1 g4 see Vrolijk-Van Foreest above. 18.Qd3 Edouard, Romain f4 19.f3!? Qf5 20.Qxf5 *( 20.Qxf5!? exf5 21.Re5± )* 20...exf5 21.Bd3 -0.06/19 *( 21.Re7±* 0.34/23 *)* 21...Kg8 0.35/20 *( 21...b6=* -0.06/19 feels stronger.*)* 22.c4 -0.06/20 *( 22.Re7±* 0.35/20 is more appropriate.*)* 22...c5 23.Bc3≌ Vrolijk,L (2462)-Van Foreest,J (2632) Amstelveen blitz 2019 Bd7!∞ ]

**14...c5** Prevents Bf4. **15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 Bf6N** White must now prevent ...Qxe6!

[ 16...d3 17.Rxd3 Qe8! 18.Be5 ]

**17.cxd4**

[ 17.Bxe6 Bxe6 18.Rxe6 Qc8 19.Rxf6 Rxf6∓ ]

**17...Re8 18.Re3**

[ 18.Be5 aiming for d5. Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Bd7 Against d5 20.Qxb7 ]

**18...Bd7** In the next four moves Ding maneuvred very nicely to get rid of light-coloured bishops. But Black's positions remains very solid. In the next four moves Ding maneuvred very nicely to get rid of light-coloured bishops. But Black's positions remains very solid. Edouard, Romain: 'In the next four moves Ding maneuvred very nicely to get rid of light-coloured bishops. But Black's position remains very solid.

' **19.Qh5!?** Rh3 is the strong threat.

[ 19.Qxb7 Ba4 20.Bb3 Bxb3 21.Qxb3 *( 21.axb3* -0.34/22 21.Qxb3 0.05 *e5 )* 21...Qb6 22.Qa4 ]

**19...g6** 0.40/20

[ 19...Qe7!= -0.05/22 might be stronger. ]

**20.Qe2± Ba4**

[ 20...Kg7 0.88/21 20...Ba4 0.33 21.Bxe6 0.04/24 *( 21.h4±* 0.88/21 *)* 21...Rxe6 22.Rxe6 Bxe6 23.Qxe6 Baron,M-Gyger,T email 2006. Hoping for Rc1. Qg8± 0.57/22 *( 23...Qe8* 0.72/19 23...Qe7 0.22 *24.Qb3!; 23...Qe7!=* 0.15/21 deserves consideration. *24.Qxe7+ Bxe7 )* 24.Qd7+± Edouard, Romain Qf7!? 25.Qb5! ]

[ 20...Qb6 21.h4 ]

**21.Rd2 Rc8**

[ 21...b5 22.Bxb5 Bxb5 23.Qxb5 Qb6 24.Qe2! d5 would now be deadly. Kg8 ]

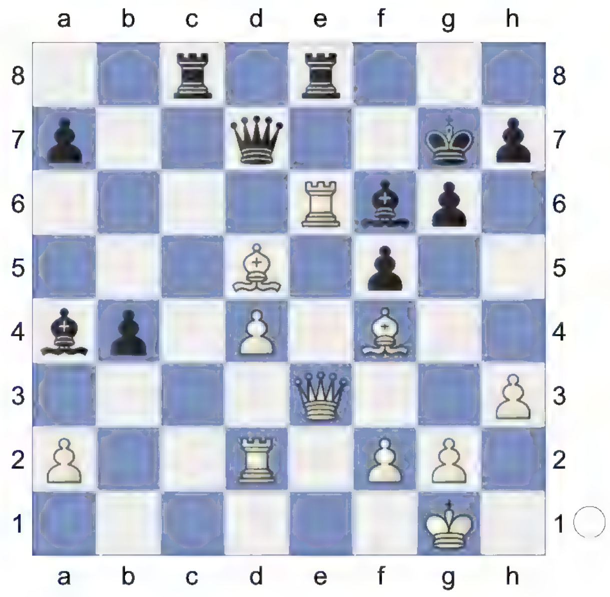
**22.h3**

[ 22.Bxe6? Rc1+-+ ]

[ 22.Rxe6 b5 23.Rxe8+ *( 23.Bxb5? Rc1+-+ )* 23...Qxe8 24.Qxe8+ Rxe8= ]

**22...g5**

[ 22...Kg7 0.88/21 22...Bd7 0.37 23.Rxe6 b5 24.Bd5 Qd7 25.Qe3 b4

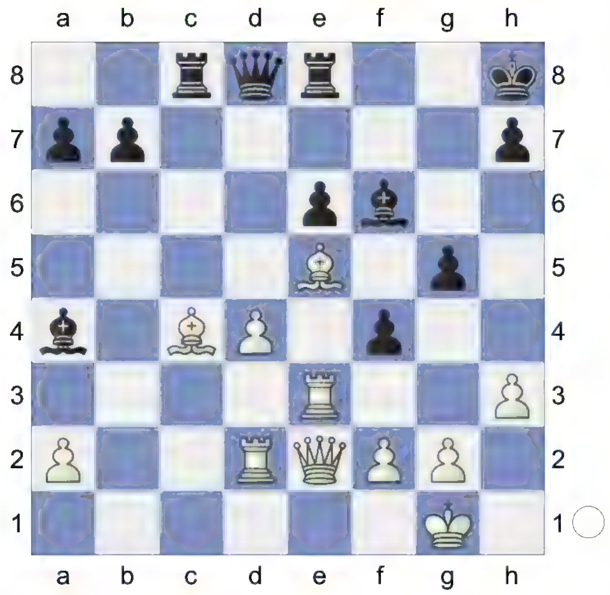


26.Re5! ]

**23.Be5 f4** 1.51/22

[ 23...Bxe5 24.Rxe5 Qd6 25.g3 *( 25.Bxe6?* -3.78/24 25.g3 1.03 *Rc1+ 26.Kh2 Rxe6; 25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.Qxe6 Qxe6 27.Bxe6 Rc1+ 28.Kh2±* /⇄, Sucikova,S (1934)-O'Donnell,D England 2013. And now

d5! would win. *Rc2± 29.Rxc2!? Bxc2 )* 25...Bd7 26.Bb3 0.60/20 *( 26.Rd1± 1.14/19 )*]
[Black should try 23...a6± 0.66/22 ]



**24.Bxf6+** 1.10/24
[ 24.Ra3! Bc6 *( 24...b5* 2.89/21 24...Bc6 1.43 *25.Bxb5 Bxb5 26.Qxb5 )* 25.Rxa7 ]
[ ⌓24.Ra3 1.51/22 Bc6 *( 24...b5? 25.Bxb5 Bxb5 26.Qxb5+- )* 25.Rxa7 ]

**24...Qxf6± 25.Re5**
[ 25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.Bxe6 ]

**25...Bd7** Wang Hao decides not to change the pawn structure.
[ 25...f3 made sense, but once on g6, it is unclear whose light-squared bishop is the worst one. Furthermore, Qd1-Bh5 could happen at some point. made sense, but once on g6, it is unclear whose light-squared bishop is the worst one. Furthermore, Qd1-Bh5 could happen at some point. Edouard, Romain: 'made sense, but once on g6, it is unclear whose light-squared bishop is the worst one. Furthermore, ♕d1-♗h5 could happen at some point. ' 26.gxf3 Edouard, Romain Bd7 ]

**26.f3 h6**
[ 26...Rc6 followed with Bb3 would be a risky bet for Black. followed with Bb3 would be a risky bet for Black. Edouard, Romain: 'followed with ♗b3 would be a risky bet for Black.' ]

**27.Rd1 a6 28.Re1 Kg7** 1.78/20
[ 28...b5± 1.37/18 29.Bb3 *( 29.Bxe6 Bxe6 30.Rxe6 Rxe6= )* 29...a5 ]

**29.Bb3** 0.76/18
[ 29.Bxe6 Rxe6 30.Rxe6 Qxe6 31.Qxe6 Bxe6 32.Rxe6 Rc1+ 33.Kh2 Ra1= ]
[ 29.Qd3+- 1.78/20 is more deadly. ]

**29...b5** 2.15/22 Loses the game.
[ 29...a5 1.56/18 29...Rc3 0.91 ]
[ 29...Rc3± 0.76/18 ]

**30.Qd2?+-** A terrible blunder, completely atypical from Ding.
[ 30.Bxe6 Rxe6 31.Rxe6 Qxe6 *( 31...Bxe6 32.Qxe6 Qxe6 33.Rxe6= )* 32.Qxe6 Bxe6 33.Rxe6 Rc1+ 34.Kh2 a5= ]

**30...Kh8 31.Kh2 Kg7 32.Qa5**
[ 32.d5 exd5 4.32/22 *( 32...Re7* 3.08/18 keeps fighting. *33.Qb4 Kg8 )* 33.Qxd5!+- Bc6 34.Qc5 and the rook endgame is drawn but slightly easier for White. Rxe5? 35.Rxe5!!+- Be8 should have been played. After *( 35...Bd7* 7.71/20 35...Bb7 5.12 *36.Qa7* Black has a few ways to sac an exchange, and White will have to be extremely precise if he wants to hold. *Qd6!?* would keep a very light plus, although it would be difficult to break Black's defence. *37.Rd5 Rc7 38.Qd4+* was the other option: the white knight got a nice square on e4, but it isn't a better one than c4, and White has only one knight! *Qf6* Strongly threatening ...Qxd4. *39.Rxd7+ )* 36.Re7+ Kh8 37.Qa7

Bg6 Inhibits Rh7+. 38.Re6 Qg7 39.Qxa6 ]

**32...h5!** A very nasty surprise. Suddenly, White has all the weaknesses, and Black can enjoy an amazing pieces coordination. A very nasty surprise. Suddenly, White has all the weaknesses, and Black can enjoy an amazing pieces coordination. Edouard, Romain: 'A very nasty surprise. Suddenly, White has all the weaknesses, and Black can enjoy amazing piece coordination.

**' 33.Qxa6**

[ 33.h4 gxh4 34.Qxa6 Kh6± ]

**33...g4 34.Qb7**

[ 34.Rxh5 ]

[ 34.Bxe6? Rxe6 35.Qb7 ( *35.Rxe6? g3+ 36.Kh1 Qxe6-+* ) 35...g3+ 36.Kh1 ( *36.Kg1? Qe7-+* ) 36...Qf7-+ ]

**34...Re7 35.Qe4**

[ 35.Bxe6? Bxe6 36.Qxb5 gxf3-+ ]

[ 35.fxg4 hxg4 36.hxg4 ( *36.Bxe6? Bxe6 37.Qxb5 f3-+* ) 36...Qh4+ 37.Kg1 Rc3 ]

**35...g3+ 36.Kh1 Be8** 3.25/21

[ ⌓36...Kh6 2.08/18 37.Qd3 ( *37.Bxe6? Rxe6 38.Rxe6 Bxe6-+* ) 37...Rg8 ]

**37.d5**

[ 37.Rxe6 Rxe6 38.Bxe6 Rc3= ]

[ 37.Bxe6 Bg6 38.Qe2 Rc2± ]

**37...Bg6?! 38.Qb4 Rec7** 5.20/20

[ 38...Rce8 3.43/22 was necessary. 39.d6 ( *39.dxe6 Rb7±; 39.Qxb5?* perishes. *exd5 40.Rxe7+ Rxe7-+; 39.Rxe6 Rxe6 40.dxe6 Rc8+-* ) 39...Rd7 40.Rxe6 ( *40.Qxb5 Rxd6 41.Rg5 Kh6=; 40.Bxe6 Rdd8+-* ) 40...Rxe6 41.Bxe6 ( *41.Rxe6 Qf5+-* ) 41...Rd8 ]

**39.Rxe6**

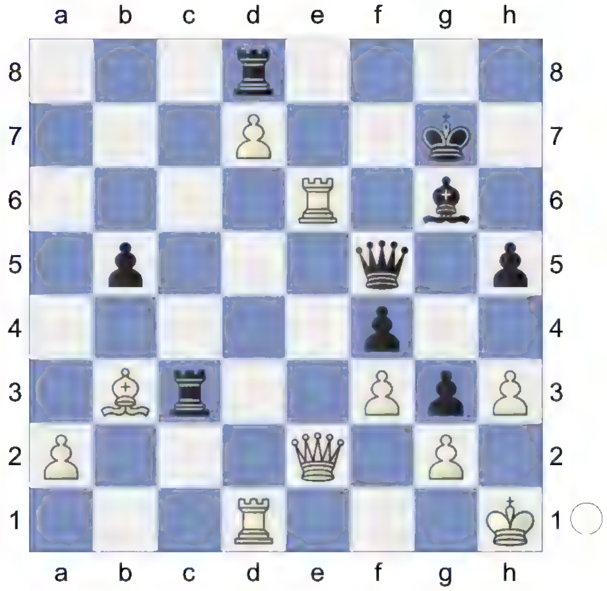
[ 39.Qxb5? loses. Qxe5 40.Qf1 Qd4-+ ]

**39...Qf5 40.Qd4+??** One of the worst possible moves, when Black has actually given White an opportunity to escape! **40...Kh6 41.Qd2** Inhibits Rc1. **41...Rc3** Surely what White had missed. Again, completely unusual for Ding Liren! **42.d6 Rd3 43.d7 Rd8 44.Qe2 Rc3**

[ 44...R3xd7 45.Bc2 ]

**45.Rd1 Kg7** #16/16

[ 45...Rc7+- 3.58/18 46.h4 ( *46.Re5 Qf8+-* ) 46...Rdxd7 47.Rxd7 Rxd7 ]



After **46.Rxg6+!** Remove Defender. Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.41. Loss on time!? it is Black who should be careful:

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Kantor,Gergely** **2531**

■ **Pichot,Alan** **2644**

Chessable Masters Play In rapid (1)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3**

**dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 Rb8!?** Leaves trodden paths.Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **11.Nc3 0-0 12.Rd1 Kh8 13.Qf4 f5N**

[ 13...Nb4 14.Ne4 ( *14.Qg4 N4d5 15.Qh5 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bb7 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qd5 19.Bf3 Qb5 20.Be7 Rfe8 21.Bc5 Kg8* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ) 14...Nc2 15.Rb1 Nd5 16.Qd2 Na3 17.Ra1 Bb4 18.Qg5 Nc2 19.Rb1 Be7 20.Qh5 Na3 21.Nfg5 h6 22.Nxf7+ Rxf7 23.Qxf7 Nxb1 24.Bxc4 Rb4 25.Bb3 Qf8 26.Qg6 Rxb3 27.axb3 Bb7 28.Ng3 1-0 (66) Muchnik,L (2476)-9. ♘xf6+ gxf6 10. ♕e2 (2298) 12/(156) Cande 2011 (10) ]

**14.h4N**

[Vorgänger: 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Be3 -0.40/19 ( *15.Qg3± 0.88/19* ) 15...Nd5∓ 16.Qg3? -2.60/21 ( *16.Nxd5!∓ -0.36/20 exd5 17.b3* ) 16...Rxb2-+ 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Bf1 Bf5 19.Ne5 -3.63/17 ( *⌓19.h3 -2.55/20* ) 19...Nxe5-+ 20.dxe5 0-1 Bok,B (2624)-Khanin,S (2517) Titled Tuesday intern op 10th Aug blitz 2021 (4) ]

**14...Nb4 15.Qg3! Ba6 16.h5** 0.05/24

[ 16.b3± 0.63/19 ]

**16...N6d5**

[ 16...N4d5 simplifies 17.Bg5 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5 ]

**17.h6** -0.76/20

[ 17.Bd2= 0.14/21 ]

**17...gxh6!∓** Threatens to win with ...Rg8. **18.Bxh6 Rg8** Inhibits Qg7+. **19.Qh3 Nxc3 20.bxc3 Nd5 21.Bd2 Rg6** -0.15/18

[ 21...Rb2∓ -0.67/20 ]

**22.Rab1= Rb6** 0.15/20

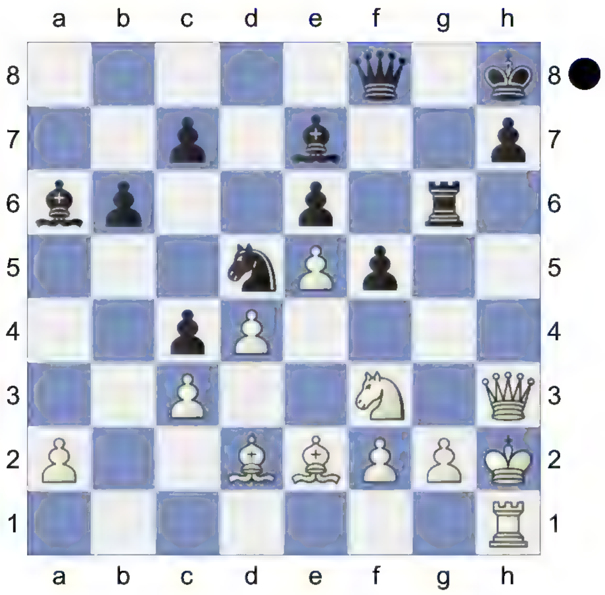
[ 22...Rc8 -0.30/21 might be stronger. ]

**23.Kh2 Qf8 24.Rxb6** -0.44/20

[ 24.Kg1!= 0.00/22 ]

**24...axb6∓ 25.Rh1** -0.96/20

[ 25.Kg1∓ -0.37/21 ]



**25...b5** 0.13/21

[ 25...Nxc3!∓ -0.96/20 26.Nh4 ( *26.Bxc3? Rh6-+* Pin ) 26...Bxh4 ( *26...Nxe2? 27.Nxg6+ Kg8 28.Nxf8+-* )]

**26.Kg1**

[ 26.Nh4!? Rh6 27.Bxh6 Qxh6 28.g3= ]

**26...Qg8** Active counter play! **27.a3** -0.64/21 **Bb7** -0.01/23

[ 27...Bxa3 28.Nh4 Rg7 29.Bh6 ]

[ 27...Rg4∓ -0.64/21 ]

**28.Bd1** -1.01/23

[ 28.Nh4!= -0.01/23 Bxh4 29.Qxh4 ]

**28...Nb6 29.Bc2** -1.49/21

[White should play 29.Ne1∓ -0.66/23 ]

**29...Rg4** -0.84/18

[ ⌓29...Rg7 -1.49/21 30.Kh2 Bxa3 ]

**30.Kf1** -1.92/24

[ 30.Rh2∓ -0.84/18 is a better

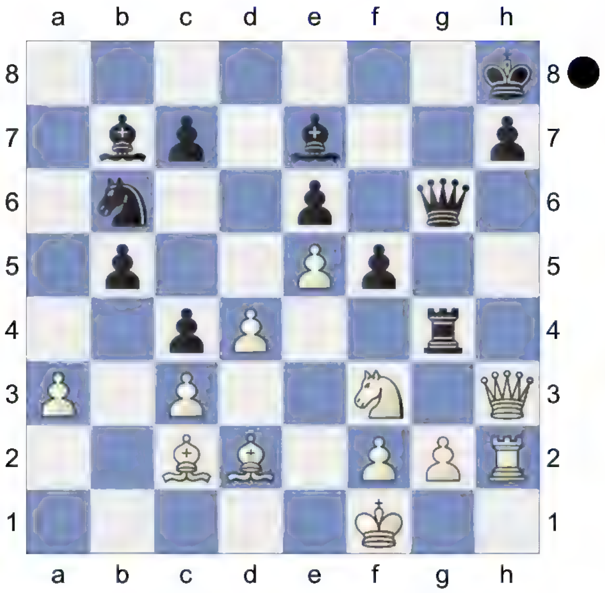
defense. ]

**30...Qg6** -1.11/17

[ 30...Be4-+ -1.92/24 31.Bxe4 fxe4 ]

**31.Rh2** -1.77/19

[ 31.Bd1∓ -1.11/17 ]



**31...Be4!-+**

[ 31...Bxa3? 32.Ng5 Bxg2+ 33.Rxg2 Rxg2 34.Qxg2+- *( 34.Kxg2 Be7+- )*]

**32.Bxe4** -2.74/24

[ ⌓32.Bd1 -1.75/21 ]

**32...fxe4 33.Ne1 Rh4!**

[ 33...Bxa3 34.Nc2 Be7 35.g3= ]

**34.Qxh4 Bxh4 35.Rxh4 Nd5** White must now prevent ...c6. **36.Ke2?** -4.70/22

[ 36.Kg1 -1.87/21 was the only chance. ]

**36...Qf5 37.g3 Qf8 38.Rxe4 Qxa3 39.Kf1 Nxc3**

[ 39...Qb2 40.Nf3-+ ]

**40.Re3 b4 41.Nc2** -5.95/23 Against Qa1+

[ 41.d5 -2.98/21 Kg7 *( 41...exd5? 42.e6-+ )* 42.dxe6 ]

**41...Qb2 42.Bxc3 bxc3** Endgame. KQ-KRN

[ 42...Qxc2 43.Bxb4 Qb1+ 44.Be1∓ ]

**43.Re2 Qc1+ 44.Kg2?** -7.11/19

[ 44.Ne1 -3.82/21 ]

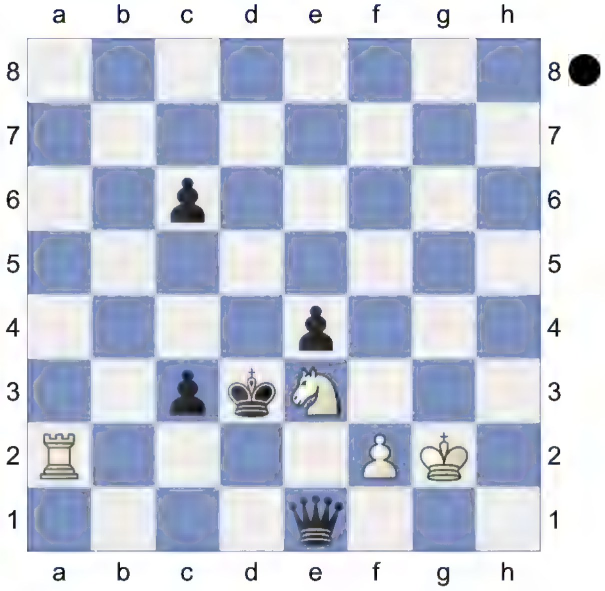
**44...Qd1 45.Kf3 Qd3+ 46.Ne3 Qxd4 47.Rc2 Qxe5 48.Ke2 Qd4 49.Kf3 h5 50.Ke2 e5 51.Kf3 Kh7 52.Ke2 e4 53.Kf1 Kg6 54.Kg2 Qd3 55.Kh2 Kf7 56.Kh3 Kg6 57.Kh4 Qd4 58.Kh3 Kg5 59.Rc1 Qd2 60.Rc2 Qe1 61.Kg2** Inhibits Qh1+. **61...h4 62.gxh4+ Kxh4 63.Nxc4 Kg5 64.Ne3 c6?** -0.34/21

[ 64...c5-+ -4.66/24 aiming for ...Qa1. 65.Kh2 Kf6 66.Rxc3 Qxf2+ *( 66...Qxc3 67.Nd5+ Ke5 68.Nxc3= )* 67.Kh3 Qe2 ]

**65.Nc4?** -6.93/21 Now White is beyond hope.

[ 65.Ra2∓ -0.34/21 ]

**65...Kf6** Black is clearly winning. **66.Ne3 Ke5 67.Nc4+ Kd4 68.Ne3 Kd3** Strongly threatening ...Qxe3! **69.Ra2**



**Qxe3!! 70.fxe3 c2 71.Ra1 Kd2 72.Kg3 Kxe3**

[ 72...c1B? 73.Kf4 c5 74.Kxe4+- ]

[ 72...c1Q 73.Rxc1 Kxc1 74.Kf4= ]

**73.Kg4 Kd2 74.Kf4 e3** Weighted Error Value: White=0.46/ Black=0.28 (precise)

[And not 74...c1B 75.Rxc1 Kxc1

76.Kxe4= ]
[Weaker is 74...c1N 75.Kxe4 c5 76.Kd5= ]
[Inferior is 74...c1Q 75.Rxc1 Kxc1 76.Kxe4= ]

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Ojasuo,Anton** **2627**
■ **Sudgen,J N** **2770**
Triberg-A 2021
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4**

[ 4...Nbd7 5.Bf4 dxc4 *( 5...Be7 )* 6.e4 Bb4 7.Bxc4 *( 7.Qc2 )* 7...Nxe4 8.0-0 Nxc3 *( 8...Bd6 9.Nxe4 Bxf4 )* 9.bxc3 Bd6 *( 9...Bxc3 10.Rc1 Bb4 11.d5 )* 10.Bg3 *( 10.Ne5 Qf6; 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Qe2 Rd8 14.Rad1 a5 15.d5 Nb6 16.Bb3 a4 17.dxe6 Bxe6 )* 10...0-0 *( 10...Bxg3 11.fxg3 0-0 12.Qc2 b6 )* 11.Ne5 Nxe5 *( 11...Qe7 12.Re1 Re8 13.Re3 )* 12.dxe5 Be7 13.Qg4 Qd7 *( 13...c5 14.Bf4 Qc7 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.Re3 )*

**A)** 14.Rfe1 b5 15.Rad1 Qc6 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Qh3 h6 *( 17...g6 )* 18.Bf4 Rad8 19.Re3 g5 20.Rg3 Rxd3 21.Rdxd3 Qe4 22.Bd2 Rd8;

**B)** 14.Bf4 Rd8 15.Bh6 g6 *( 15...Bf8 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Bf6 )* 16.h4 ]

**5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7** 0.93/20

[ 8...Bxc3 9.Rb1 c5 *( 9...c6 10.Rb3 Ba5 11.Ne5 )*

**A)** 10.d5 exd5 11.Bxd5 0-0 12.Bxf7+ *( 12.Ng5!? Bf6□ 13.Nxf7* Decoy *Rxf7 14.Bxf7+ Kxf7 15.Qh5+ Kf8 16.Re1= )* 12...Kh8! Strongly threatening ...Qd5! 13.Qb3 Bf6 14.Be3 Nc6 15.Bxc5 Na5 16.Qd5 Qxd5 17.Bxd5 Rd8 18.Rfe1 Bf5 19.Be4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Kg8;

**B)** 10.Rb3± 1.02/21 cxd4 11.Ng5;

**C)** 10.Bg5 0.09/21

**C1)** 10...Qd7 1.68/19
10...f6 0.86 11.d5! exd5 12.Bb5! Nc6 13.Qc1! d4 Wards off Qe3+ 14.Re1+! Bxe1 0.71/18 *( 14...Kf8+- 1.75/22 )* 15.Qxc5± Ba5! 16.Nxd4 a6 17.Rb2? 2.97/20 *( 17.Ba4!± 0.62/20 b5 18.Nxc6 bxa4 19.Qe5+ Kf8 20.Qc5+ Ke8 21.Qxa5 )*;

**C2)** 10...Qc7 11.d5 0-0 2.45/21 *( 11...exd5± 1.30/20* keeps fighting. *12.Qe2+ Kf8 13.Bxd5 h6 )* 12.d6+- Qd7 13.Rb3! Bb4 4.96/21 ...Bf5 would now be deadly. *( ⌓13...Ba5 3.24/20 14.Bb5 Nc6 )* 14.a3 Ba5 15.Bb5 Nc6 16.Ne5 ]

[ 8...Bd6± 0.35/21 ]

**9.Ne5** White has compensation.

[ 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 Nd7 11.Rd3 ]

**9...0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5**

[ 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 aiming for Bh6. Kh8 13.Bf4 ]

**12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4**

[ 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 ]

**14...Bd6**

[ 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5

17.Rxe5 Qf6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8 21.Re3 h6 22.Qh2 b5 23.Bf1 Kh7 24.Qxh4 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 26.Bd3 Rg6 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.fxg3 Bb7 29.Bc2 Rf8 ↑-↑ (35) 11... ♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c, 4 (2769)-Wastfelt,T (2677) Bosna i Hercegovina (rapid) 89/187 2003 (3) ]

**15.Re2N**

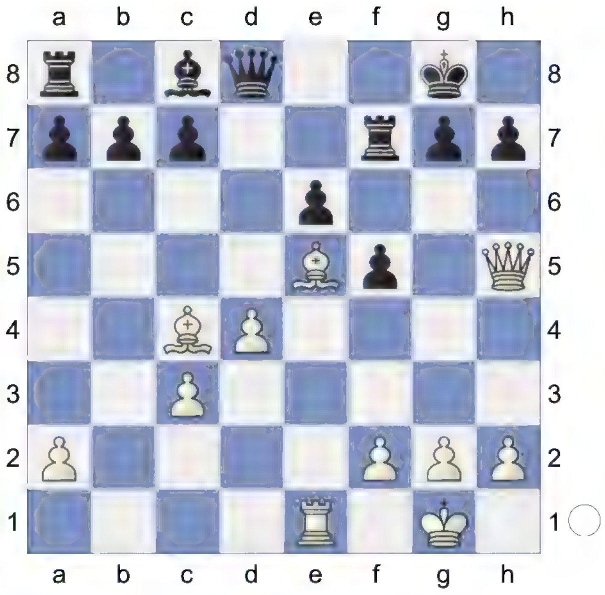
[ 15.Re3 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 Bd5 is the strong threat. f4 19.Ree1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rac8 21.Rxd6 Rxc3 22.Rd7 Rfc8 ( -> ...Rc1+) *( 22...f3 23.Rd1 )* 23.Re1 Rc1 *( 23...Rc2 24.h4 )* 24.Kf1 R1c2 25.d5 h6 26.d6 Rd2 27.Rc7 Rd8 28.Rxb7 R8xd6 29.Rxa7 Rc6 White must now prevent ...Rcc2. 30.Ra3 Kh7 31.h4 Rcc2 32.Rf3 g5 ]

[ 15.Qg3 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.h4 c6 *( 17...b5; 17...b6* 0.40/19 17...Kg8 -0.19 *18.h5 h6 19.Re1 )* 18.Re1 a5 19.Re3 Kg8 20.Qf4 b5 21.Be2 b4 22.cxb4 Ba6 Prevents Bc4. Threatens to win with ...Bxe2. 23.Bh5 Rd7 24.Rg3 Raa7 ]

[ 15.Rae1 -0.16/23 15.Ree1 0.38 Bxe5 16.Bxe5

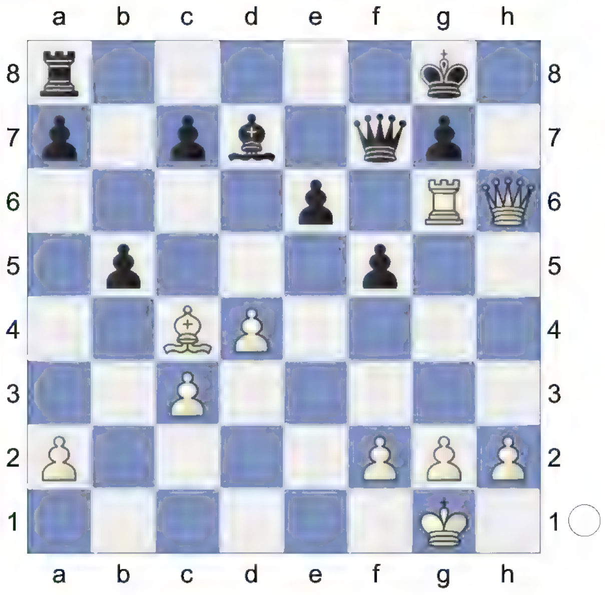
**A)** 16...Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 *( 17...Qe8 18.d5! )*

(Diagram)



18.Re3! Hoping for Rh3. Bd7 1.17/24 *( 18...b5⩲ 0.44/22 19.Be2 Bd7 )* 19.Rh3± h6 20.Rg3 Inhibits Qg5. Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 Qf7 23.Qxh6 b5

(Diagram)



24.Bb3! Re8 25.h4 a5 26.a3 Kf8 27.Qg5 Re7 28.h5 Be8 29.Qh4 Qg8 30.Rg3 Qh7 31.Rg5 Qh6 32.g4 a4 33.Bc2 Bf7 34.Bd3 Qf6 35.Bxb5 c5 36.dxc5 Be8 37.Bxe8 Rxe8 38.gxf5 Rc8 39.fxe6 Rxc5 40.e7+ (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 16...h6 17.Re3 *( 17.Qh5 Qg5* Sacrificial Line-Main plan 9. ♘e5 - Qg4 2016 *)* 17...Bd7 Prevents d5 18.Qh5 Qg5

**B1)** 19.Qd1 f4 Prevents Rg3 20.h4! Qe7 21.Rh3! Bc6 22.Bd3 Prevents Be4. Rf6

*( 22...Kg8!? )*;

**B2)** 19.Qxg5 hxg5 20.d5 *( 20.Rg3 b5 21.Rxg5 Rf7 22.Bb3 a5 )* 20...exd5 21.Rh3+ Kg8 22.Bxd5+ Rf7! 23.Bxc7 Rc8 24.Be5 Re8 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Re3 f4 27.Re1 g4 28.g3 *( 28.f3 gxf3 29.gxf3 g5 30.Kf2 Re6 31.h4 gxh4 32.Bxf4 Ra6 33.Re2 Be6 )* 28...f3 29.Re3 Re6 30.h3 gxh3 31.Rxf3+ Kg6 32.Re3 Ra6 33.Re2 ]

**15...Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6 17.Qxd6**

[ 17.Re5 Bd7 18.Rae1

**A)** 18...Rae8 19.Qe3 h6 20.h4 *( 20.Bxe6 )* 20...Qa3 21.h5 c6 22.Bb3 a5;

**B)** 18...Rf6 19.h4 *( 19.Qe3 Raf8 20.f3 b6 21.Bxe6 Bxe6 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.Qxe6 Qxe6 24.Rxe6 Kg8! 25.Kf2* And now Ke3 would win. *Kf7 26.Rc6 Rc8 27.h4* With the idea d5. *Ke7 )* 19...h6 20.Bb3 a5 21.Qe3 Qa3 *( 21...b5 22.d5 )* 22.d5 a4 23.dxe6 axb3 24.exd7 bxa2 25.Re8+ Rf8 26.Rxa8 Qxa8 27.Ra1 Qd8 28.Qe6 Rf6! 29.Qe8+ Rf8 ]

**17...cxd6** Wards off d5. The position is equal. **18.Bxe6 Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6=** Endgame. KR-KR **21...Rc8 22.Rxd6 Kg8**

[ 22...h6 23.Rd7 Rxc3 24.g3 Ra3 25.Rxb7 Rxa2 26.Kg2 Ra4 27.d5 Kh7 28.Kf3 Kg6 29.d6 Rd4 30.d7 a5 ]

**23.h4**

[ 23.g3 Rxc3 24.Rd8+ *( 24.Rd7 )* 24...Kf7 25.Rd7+ Kf6 26.Rxb7 Ra3 27.Rb2 Rd3 28.Rc2 *( 28.Rb4 Ra3* Prevents Ra4 *29.Rb2 Rd3 )* 28...a5 29.Rc6+ Kg5 *( 29...Ke7 )* 30.Rc4 Ra3 Repels Ra4 31.Rc2 Rd3 32.Rc5 Ra3 ]

**23...Rxc3 24.Rd8+ Kf7 25.Rd7+ Kf6 26.Rxb7 Ra3 27.d5 Rxa2 28.d6 Rd2 29.Rxa7 Rxd6 30.g3 h5 31.Kg2 Re6 32.Ra8 Rd6 33.Rf8+ Kg6 34.Re8 Kf6 35.Rf8+ Kg6 36.Re8 Kf6 37.Rf8+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2627**

■ **So,Wesley** **2770**

Bucuresti 149/135 2021

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4**

[ 4...Nbd7 5.Bf4 dxc4 *( 5...Be7 )* 6.e4 Bb4 7.Bxc4 *( 7.Qc2* 37 - 61/438, D*)* 7...Nxe4 8.0-0 Nxc3 *( 8...Bd6!? 9.Nxe4 Bxf4∞ )* 9.bxc3 Bd6 *( 9...Bxc3 10.Rc1 Bb4 11.d5=∞ )* 10.Bg3 *( 10.Ne5 Qf6∓; 10.Bg5 Be7 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Re1 0-0 13.Qe2 Rd8 14.Rad1 a5!? △15.d5 Nb6 16.Bb3 a4 17.dxe6 Bxe6 )* 10...0-0 *( 10...Bxg3 11.fxg3 0-0 12.Qc2 b6!? )* 11.Ne5 Nxe5 *( 11...Qe7 12.Re1 Re8 13.Re3!?* 37 - 147/137, D *)* 12.dxe5 Be7 13.Qg4 Qd7 *( 13...c5 14.Bf4 Qc7 15.Rfe1 Re8 16.Re3=∞ )*

**A)** 14.Rfe1 b5 15.Rad1 Qc6 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Qh3 h6! *( 17...g6 )* 18.Bf4 Rad8 △19.Re3 g5 20.Rg3 Rxd3! 21.Rdxd3 Qe4 22.Bd2 Rd8∓;

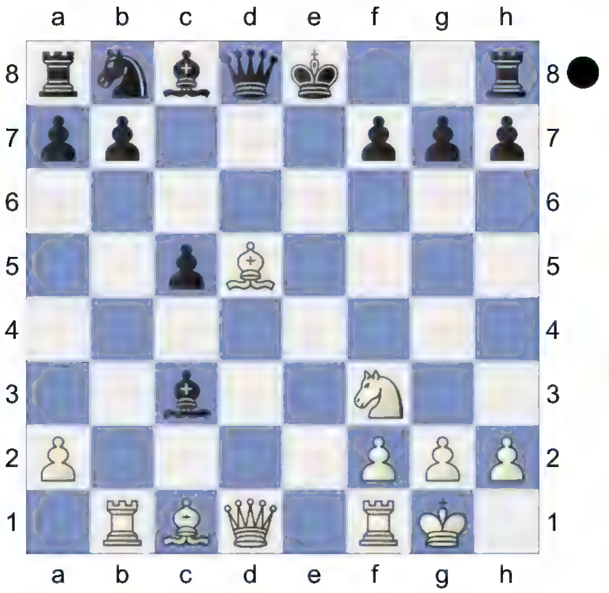
**B)** 14.Bf4!? Rd8 15.Bh6 g6 *( 15...Bf8 16.Bg5 Be7 17.Bf6↑ )*

16.h4≌ ]

**5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7**

[ 8...Bxc3?! 9.Rb1 c5 ( *9...c6? 10.Rb3 Ba5 11.Ne5±* )

**A)** 10.d5 exd5 11.Bxd5 Diagram



0-0! 12.Bxf7+ ( *12.Ng5!? Bf6□ 13.Qh5 Bxg5 14.Rd1±* ) 12...Kh8! 13.Qb3 -0.25/23 ( *⌓13.Bd5* 0.25/18 ) 13...Bf6 14.Be3 Nc6! 15.Bxc5 Na5 16.Qd5 Qxd5 17.Bxd5 Rd8 18.Rfe1 Bf5 19.Be4 Bxe4 20.Rxe4 Kg8=;

**B)** 10.Rb3!± 1.21/21 cxd4 11.Ng5;

**C)** 10.Bg5! 0.16/22

**C1)** 10...Qd7 2.05/20 10...f6 0.66 11.d5! exd5 12.Bb5! Nc6 aiming for ...0-0. 13.Qc1! d4 Prevents Qe3+ 14.Re1+! Bxe1 2.17/20 ( *14...Kf8±* 1.53/23 ) 15.Qxc5+- Ba5 16.Nxd4 a6 17.Rb2!+-;

**C2)** 10...f6± 0.57/20;

**C3)** 10...Qc7 1.69/19 11.d5!+- △0-0 3.16/22 ( *11...exd5±* 1.28/21 *12.Qe2+ Kf8 13.Bxd5 h6* ) 12.d6!+- Qd7 13.Rb3! Bb4? 5.27/21 ( *13...Bd4* 3.25/19 *14.Nxd4 cxd4* ) 14.a3 Ba5 15.Bb5 Nc6 16.Ne5+- ]

**9.Ne5** White has compensation.

[ 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Rd1 Nd7 11.Rd3!?≌ ]

**9...0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5**

[ 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Kh8 13.Bf4≌ Δ Rad1 ]

**12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8! 14.Bf4**

[ 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 ]

**14...Bd6**

[ 14...g5 - 132/148 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qf6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8 21.Re3 h6 22.Qh2 b5 23.Bf1 Kh7 24.Qxh4 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 26.Bd3 Rg6 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.fxg3 Bb7 29.Bc2 Rf8 ↑-↑ (35) 11...♕c7 12.♘bd2 cd4 13.c,4 (2769)-Wastfelt,T (2677) Bosna i Hercegovina (rapid) 89/187 2003 (3) ]

**15.Re2N**

[ 15.Re3 Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 f4 19.Ree1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rac8 21.Rxd6 Rxc3 22.Rd7 Rfc8 ( -> ...Rc1+) ( *22...f3 23.Rd1⩲* ) 23.Re1 Rc1 ( *23...Rc2?!* 0.46/25 23...Rc1 0.06 *24.h4* ) 24.Kf1 R1c2 25.d5 Strongly threatening d6. h6 26.d6 Rd2 27.Rc7 Rd8 28.Rxb7 R8xd6 29.Rxa7 Rc6 Hoping for ... Rcc2. 30.Ra3 Kh7 31.h4 Rcc2 32.Rf3 g5= ]

[ 15.Qg3!? -0.16/22 15.Ree1 0.33 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.h4

**A)** 17...b5;

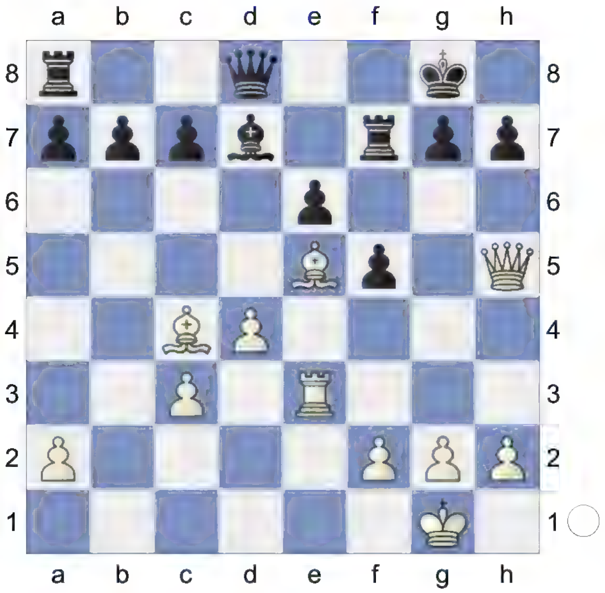
**B)** 17...b6 0.34/19 17...b5 -0.21 18.h5 h6 would now be deadly. h6 19.Re1≌ ( *19.Qg6!? Kg8□ 20.Rd1⩱* );

**C)** 17...c6 18.Re1 a5!? 19.Re3!

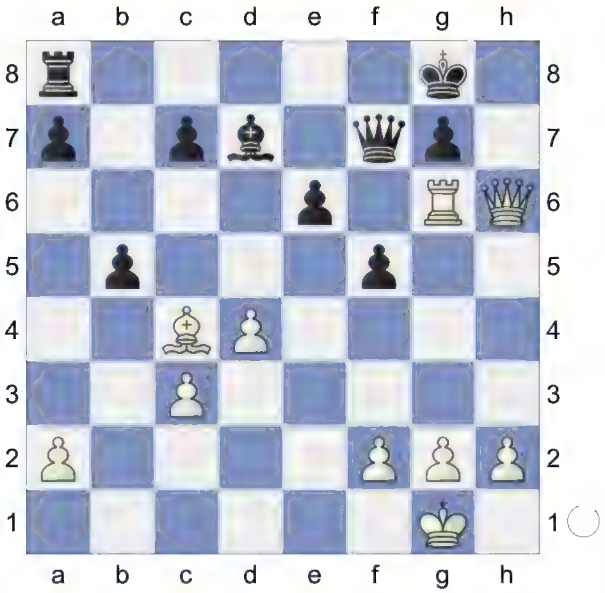
Kg8 20.Qf4 b5 21.Be2 b4 22.cxb4 Ba6 23.Bh5 Rd7 24.Rg3 Threatens to win with Bf3. Raa7∞ ]

[ 15.Rae1!? -0.25/25 15.Re2 0.35 Bxe5 16.Bxe5

**A)** 16...Rf7?! 17.Qh5! Kg8 0.57/18 *( 17...Qe8 18.d5↑; 17...Qf8=* 0.18/21 *)* 18.Re3!± △Bd7?! 1.39/20 *( 18...b5±* 0.46/22 *19.Bb3 Qd7 )*

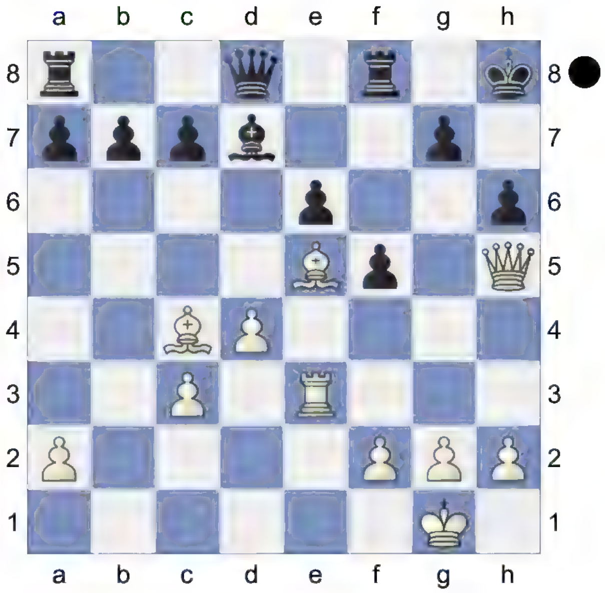


19.Rh3!± h6 20.Rg3 Repels Qg5 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 Qf7 23.Qxh6 b5



24.Bb3! Re8 2.01/24 *( 24...a5±* 1.22/19 was worth a try.*)* 25.h4± a5 26.a3 Kf8 27.Qg5 Re7 28.h5 Be8 29.Qh4 Qg8 30.Rg3 Qh7 31.Rg5 Qh6 32.g4 a4 33.Bc2 Bf7 34.Bd3 Qf6 35.Bxb5 c5 36.dxc5 Be8 37.Bxe8 Rxe8 38.gxf5 Rc8 39.fxe6 Rxc5 40.e7+ (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 16...h6 17.Re3 *( 17.Qh5 Qg5* Sacrificial Line-Main plan 9. ♘e5 - Qg4 2016 *)* 17...Bd7 18.Qh5 Diagram



Qg5! 19.Qxg5 *( 19.Qd1 f4!* Repels Rg3 *20.h4! Qe7 21.Rh3! Bc6 22.Bd3* Inhibits Be4. *Rf6!∓ )* 19...hxg5 20.d5 *( 20.Rg3 b5 21.Rxg5 Rf7 22.Bb3 a5∓ )* 20...exd5 21.Rh3+ Kg8 22.Bxd5+ Rf7! 23.Bxc7 Rc8 24.Be5 Re8 25.Bxf7+ Kxf7 26.Re3 f4 27.Re1 g4 28.g3! *( 28.f3 gxf3 29.gxf3 g5 30.Kf2 Re6 31.h4 gxh4 32.Bxf4 Ra6 33.Re2 Be6∓ )* 28...f3 29.Re3 Re6 30.h3 gxh3 31.Rxf3+ Kg6 32.Re3 Ra6 33.Re2= ]

**15...Bxf4 16.Qxf4 Qd6! 17.Qxd6**

[ 17.Re5!? Bd7 18.Rae1

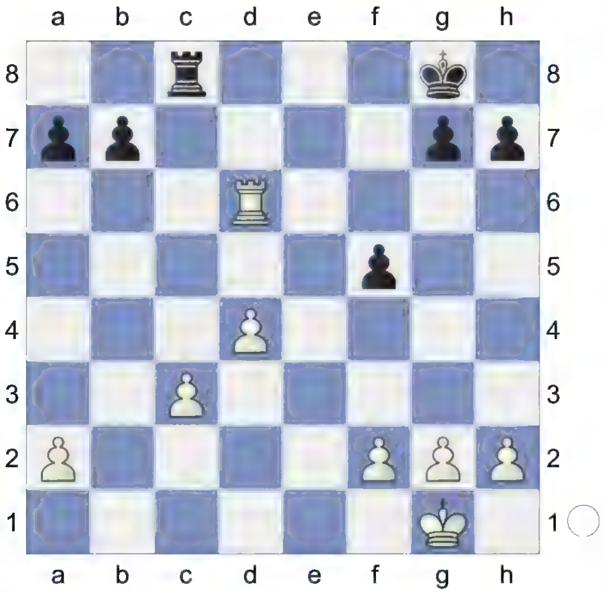
**A)** 18...Rae8 19.Qe3 h6 20.h4!?

*( 20.Bxe6= )* 20...Qa3!? 21.h5 c6 22.Bb3 a5∞;

B) 18...Rf6 19.h4 *( 19.Qe3 Raf8 20.f3 b6 21.Bxe6 Bxe6 22.Rxe6 Rxe6 23.Qxe6 Qxe6 24.Rxe6* And now Kf2 would win. *Kg8! 25.Kf2* Ke3 is the strong threat. *Kf7 26.Rc6 Rc8 27.h4 Ke7* Δ Kd7= *)* 19...h6 20.Bb3 a5 21.Qe3 Qa3!? *( 21...b5 22.d5∞ )* 22.d5 a4 23.dxe6 axb3 24.exd7 bxa2 25.Re8+ Rf8 26.Rxa8 Qxa8 27.Ra1 Qd8 28.Qe6 Rf6! 29.Qe8+ Rf8= ]

**17...cxd6** The position is equal. **18.Bxe6 Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6=** Endgame. KR-KR **21...Rc8 22.Rxd6** Black must now prevent c4! **22...Kg8** Diagram

[ 22...h6 23.Rd7 Rxc3 24.g3 Ra3 25.Rxb7 Rxa2 26.Kg2 Ra4 27.d5 Kh7 28.Kf3 Kg6 29.d6 Rd4 30.d7 a5= ]



**23.h4N**

[ 23.g3 Rxc3 24.Rd8+ *( 24.Rd7 )* 24...Kf7 25.Rd7+ Kf6 26.Rxb7 Ra3 27.Rb2 Rd3 28.Rc2 *( 28.Rb4 Ra3* Dodges Ra4 *29.Rb2 Rd3= )* 28...a5 29.Rc6+ Kg5 *( 29...Ke7 )* 30.Rc4 Ra3 Against Ra4 31.Rc2 Rd3 32.Rc5 Ra3= ]

**23...Rxc3 24.Rd8+ Kf7 25.Rd7+ Kf6 26.Rxb7 Ra3= 27.d5 Rxa2 28.d6 Rd2 29.Rxa7 Rxd6 30.g3 h5 31.Kg2 Re6 32.Ra8 Rd6 33.Rf8+ Kg6 34.Re8 Kf6 35.Rf8+ Kg6 36.Re8 Kf6 37.Rf8+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Martirosyan,Haik M** **2662**
■ **Lamard,Guillaume** **2490**
FRA-chT Top 16 Haute (3.3) 08.06.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6*

*25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.0-0 cxd4 10.e5 Qd8 11.Ne4** White has compensation. White has an edge. **11...0-0 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Rfd1** 13.Rfd1 is better than 13.Rad1. 13.Tfd1 ist besser als 13.Tad1. **13...Qa5 14.a3 Rd8 15.b4 Qb6 16.Rac1!?** -0.34/22 Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[ 16.g4= 0.26/20 ]

**16...Nd7** 0.25/24

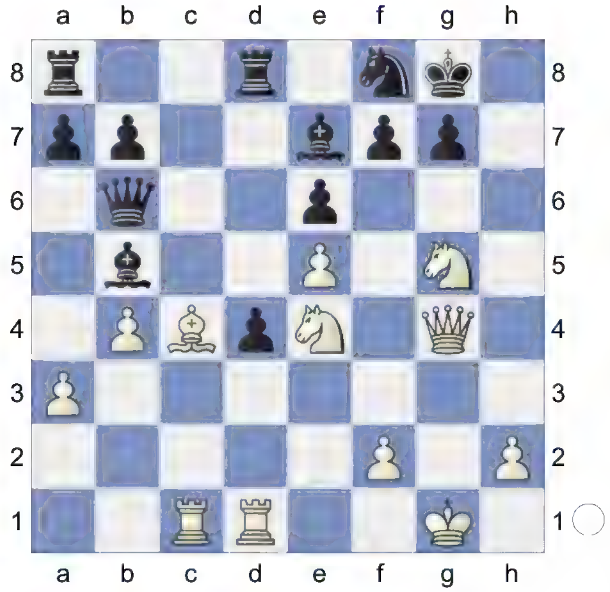
[ 16...Bd7!∓ -0.34/22 ]

**17.g4=**

[ 17.Nxd4 Nxe5 18.Nc5 Nxc4 *( 18...Bxc5 19.bxc5 Qc7 20.h3∓ )* 19.Qxc4 Bg5∓ ]

**17...Nf8 18.g5 hxg5 19.Nfxg5 Bd7! 20.Qg4** aiming for Rd3. **20...Bb5**

[ 20...Rac8!? ]



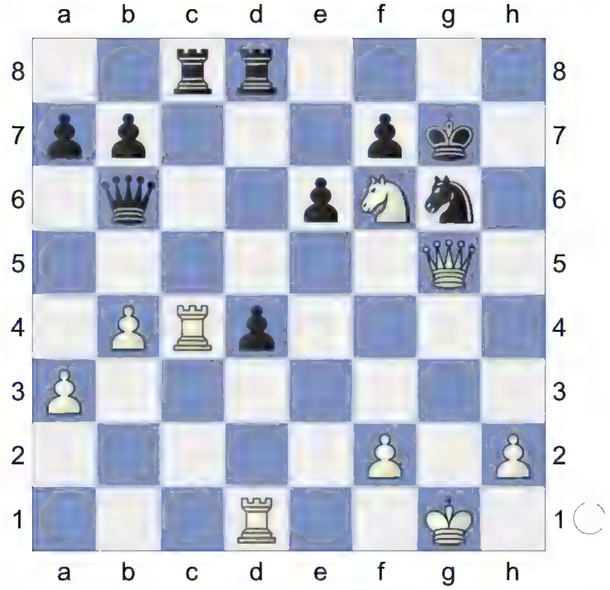
**21.Nf6+! gxf6 22.exf6 Bxf6 23.Ne4+ Ng6**

[ 23...Bg7 24.Nf6+ Kh8 25.Qh5+ ]

**24.Nxf6+ Kg7 25.Qg5N**

[Vorgänger: 25.Nh5+ Kf8 26.Bxb5 Qxb5 27.Rc5 Qa4 28.Rd3 Nf4! would now be deadly. b6! 29.Rc7 Rd7 30.Rxd7 ½-½ De Palma,F (2016)-Dostal,S (1594) EU-ch SC-OR/483 email 2022 ]

**25...Bxc4 26.Rxc4 Rac8**



**27.Nd7!** Deflection. The board is on fire. **27...Rxd7 28.Rxc8 Qa6 29.Qg4** Inhibits Qe2. **29...b6 30.Rcc1** Threatens to win with h4. **30...Qxa3 31.h4↑** Strongly threatening h5. White is pushing. **31...Rd6?** 4.33/22 This move loses the game for Black.

[ 31...Qxb4? 32.h5+- ]

[Better is 31...Kh7!± 0.42/22 ]

**32.h5+-** Pin **32...e5 33.Qf5**

[ 33.hxg6? Rxg6-+ *( 33...Qxb4? 34.gxf7+ Rg6* Pin *35.f8B+ Qxf8 36.Rc7+ Kh6 37.Rc6+-; 33...Qxb4 34.Qe4+- )*]

**33...Nh4 34.Qg4+ Ng6 35.Qf5**

[ 35.hxg6? Rxg6-+ *( 35...Qxb4? 36.gxf7+ Rg6* Pin *37.f8B+ Qxf8*

*38.Rc7+ Kh6 39.Rc6+-; 35...Qxb4? 36.gxf7+ Rg6* Pin *37.f8B+ Qxf8 38.Rc7++- )*]

**35...Nh4 36.Qxe5+ Rf6** Hoping for ... Nf3+. **37.Qg3+**

[ 37.Qxd4 Nf3+ 38.Kf1 Nxd4 39.Rxd4 Qxc1+ 40.Ke2 Qc2+ 41.Rd2 Re6+ 42.Kf1 Qxd2 43.Kg2 Qg5+ *( 43...Qxb4* is a self mate. *44.Kg3 Re1 45.Kh3 Rg1 46.Kh2 Qg4 47.h6+ Kh7 48.f4 Qg3# )* 44.Kf1 Qxh5 45.f4 Qf3+ 46.Kg1 Rg6+ 47.Kh2 Qh5# ]

[ 37.Qg5+? Rg6 38.hxg6 Nf3+ 39.Kf1 Nxg5-+ ]

**37...Qxg3+ 38.fxg3** Endgame. KRR-KRN **38...Nf5 39.g4 Ng3 40.Rc2** Against Ne2+

[ 40.Rxd4? is the wrong capture. Ne2+ 41.Kh2 Rf2+ *( 41...Nxc1? 42.b5-+; 41...Nxd4? 42.Rc7-+ )* 42.Kh3 Rf3+ *( 42...Nxc1? 43.Kh4-+; 42...Nxd4? 43.Ra1-+ )* 43.Kh4 Nxd4-+ *( 43...Nxc1? 44.Rd7-+ )*]

**40...Re6 41.Kg2** White is clearly winning.

[Weaker is 41.Rxd4 Ne2+ 42.Rxe2 Rxe2= ]

**41...Ne2 42.Kf2** Against d3 **42...Nf4 43.Rxd4 Nh3+ 44.Kg2 Ng5 45.Rd5 Kh6 46.b5 Re4 47.Rc6+ Ne6 48.Kg3 Re3+ 49.Kh4 Kg7 50.Rf5** h6+! is the strong threat. **50...Nd4 51.h6+ Kg8 52.Rc8+ Kh7 53.Rxf7+ Kxh6 54.g5+ Kg6 55.Rf6+ Kg7 56.Rc7+ Kg8 57.Rxa7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.25 (precise)

**1-0**

**D39**

□ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito 2875**
■ **Buchicchio,Gianpaolo 2767**
W-Cup2 final corr (2) 27.06.2019
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4 Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** This pair of bishops is nice. **10...Bd7 11.Bxf6! gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

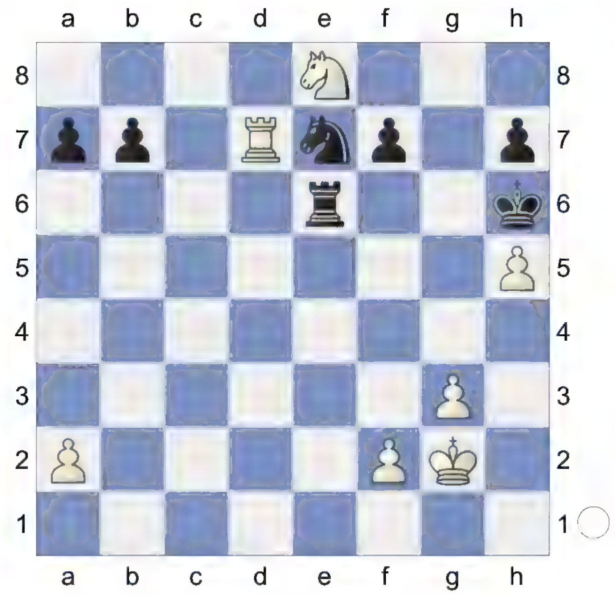
**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** White is slightly better. **13.0-0 Qxc3 14.Qa4 0-0! 15.Nxe6 Nb6 16.Qd4 Rfc8 17.Qxc3 Rxc3 18.Nf4 Rc5** Prevents Nh5. **19.Rfd1 f5 20.exf5 Rac8 21.f6 Rf5 22.g3 Rxf6 23.Rd3 Rfc6 24.Ra3 Rc1+ 25.Rxc1 Rxc1+±** Endgame. KRN-KRN **26.Kg2 Nc8 27.Rd3 Rc7** 0.99/20

[ 27...Kg7± 0.50/21 ]

**28.Rd8+± Kg7 29.h4 Ne7 30.Nh5+ Kh6 31.Nf6 Kg6 32.Ne8** White is more active. **32...Rc6 33.Rd7 Re6 34.h5+!**

[ 34.Rxb7 Nc8± ]

**34...Kh6**



**35.Nd6!**

[ 35.Rxb7 Nc8± ]

**35...f5** 2.17/21

[ 35...Kxh5± 1.23/24 36.Nxf7 ( *36.Nxb7 Nf5±; 36.Rxb7 Rxd6 37.Rxe7 Ra6±* ) 36...Nc6 37.Rxb7 Kg6 38.Nh8+ Kh6 39.Nf7+ Kg6 ]

**36.Nxb7+- Ng8** 2.43/22

[ ⌓36...a6 1.87/22 37.Nd8 Re1 ]

**37.Nd6 Nf6 38.Nxf5+**

[ 38.Rxa7? Rxd6 39.Kf3 Kxh5-+ ( *39...Nxh5? 40.Ra8-+* )]

**38...Kg5 39.Nd4**

[And not 39.Rxa7 Kxf5 40.Ra5+ Ke4± ]

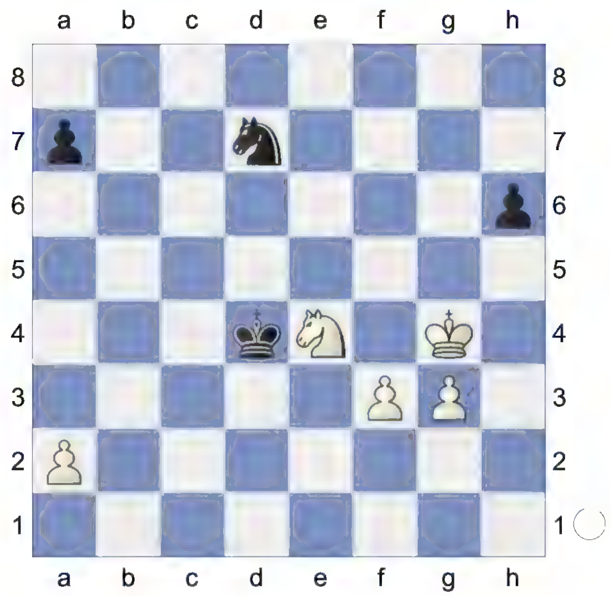
**39...Nxd7** 2.61/24

[ 39...Ra6 1.77/23 is a better defense. 40.Rf7 Kxh5 ]

**40.Nxe6+ Kxh5** KN-KN **41.Kf3 Kg6 42.Kf4 Kf6 43.Ng5 h6 44.Ne4+ Ke6 45.Kg4** 1.26/20

[ 45.Nc3+- 2.42/23 ]

**45...Ke5± 46.f3** Hoping for Kh5. **46...Kd4**



**47.Kf5** 0.03/19

[ 47.Kf4!± 1.35/20 ]

**47...Ke3!=** The position is equal. **48.f4 h5! 49.Ng5 Nc5 50.Kg6 Kf2 51.f5 Kxg3 52.Ne6 Nd7 53.Kxh5** Threatens to win with Kg5. **53...Kf3! 54.Kg5** Black must now prevent f6. **54...Ke4 55.Nc7 a5 56.Nb5 Kd3 57.Kg6 a4 58.Kf7 Ne5+ 59.Kf6 Nf3 60.Ke7** f6 would now be deadly. **60...Kc2 61.f6** Nd4+! is the strong threat. **61...Ng5 62.Nd4+ Kb2 63.Ne6 Nh7 64.f7** And now Ng5! would win. **64...Kxa2 65.Ng5** Deflection, Promotion **65...a3 66.Nxh7** KN-KP **66...Kb1 67.f8Q** White threatens Qf1+ and mate. **67...a2 68.Qf5+**

[ 68.Qb8+ Kc2 69.Qh2+ ( *69.Qh8*

*Kb1+- )* 69...Kb1 70.Qg1+ *( 70.Qb8+ Kc1+- )* 70...Kb2 71.Qd4+ Kb1 72.Qe4+ Kc1 73.Qh1+ Kb2 74.Qb7+ Kc1 75.Qc7+ *( 75.Qa8 Kb1+- )* 75...Kb1 76.Qb6+ *( 76.Qb8+ Kc2+- )* 76...Ka1+- ]

**68...Kb2 69.Qe5+ Kb1! 70.Qe4+**

[ 70.Qb8+ Kc1 71.Qa7 *( 71.Qh8 Kb1+- )* 71...Kb1 72.Qg1+ Kb2 73.Qg7+ Kb1 74.Qg6+ Kc1 75.Qc6+ Kb2 76.Qb6+ Kc1+- ]

**70...Kb2 71.Qe2+ Kb1! 72.Nf6** Threatening mate with Qe1+. **72...a1Q 73.Nd5 Qg7+ 74.Kd6 Qf8+ 75.Ke5 Qe8+ 76.Kd4 Qxe2 77.Nc3+ Ka1 78.Nxe2** Blacks defense is rewarded with a draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2875**
■ **Anand,Viswanathan** **2767**
Norway Chess 7th_12839 (1) 04.06.2019
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

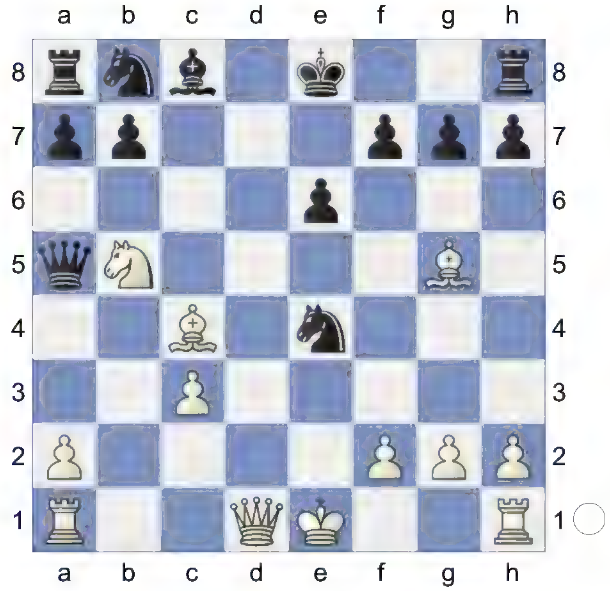
**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Nb5**

[ 10.Bb5+ simplifies Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0 ]

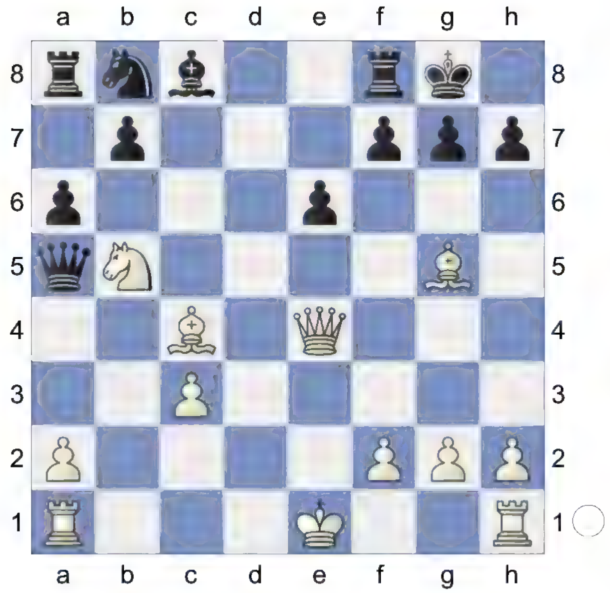
**10...Nxe4**



**11.Qd4! 0-0** Black is weak on the dark squares **12.Qxe4 a6**

(Diagram)

**13.0-0! axb5 14.Bd3** A strong pair of



Bishops. **14...f5 15.Qe2↑** White has good play. **15...Nc6** Wards off Be7 **16.Bd2 Qc7 17.Bxb5 f4 18.f3 e5 19.Rfe1 Bd7 20.a4 Kh8** 0.67/19

[ ⌓20...h6 0.31/21 ]

**21.Rad1 Rae8 22.Bc1 e4** 0.76/18 **23.fxe4±** White is more active. **23...Ne5 24.Bxd7 Nxd7 25.Rf1**

[ 25.Qb5!? f3 26.gxf3= ]

**25...Nc5 26.Ba3** Hoping for Qb5. **26...Rxe4 27.Qb5** 0.07/23

[ 27.Qh5!± 0.64/27 Re5 28.Rxf4 ]

**27...Re5!=** The position is equal. **28.Rde1** Strongly threatening Rxe5. **28...Rc8 29.Rxe5 Qxe5 30.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 31.Qxc5 Rxc5 32.Rxf4** Endgame. KR-KR **32...h6 33.Rf3 Kg8 34.Rd3 Ra5 35.Rd7 Rxa4 36.Rxb7 Ra2 37.h4 Kh7 38.Kh2 Rd2 39.Rc7** With the idea h5. **39...Kg6 40.Kg3 Kh5 41.Rc5+ g5 42.Kh3** Threatens to win with g4+. **42...Rd3+ 43.g3 Re3 44.Kg2 Rd3 45.Rc4 Re3 46.hxg5 hxg5 47.Kh3 Rd3 48.Rc8 g4+ 49.Kg2 Rd2+ 50.Kf1 Rc2 51.c4 Kg5 52.c5 Kf6 53.c6 Ke7 54.c7 Kd6 55.Rd8+ Kxc7 56.Rd4 Kc6 57.Kg1 Kc5 58.Rxg4 Kd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Moranda,Wojciech 2618**

■ **Maghsoodloo,Parham 2676**

European Online CC Final rapid (1.1)

*[Justin Tan,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5!?** This is relatively trendy at the moment, so I'll use this game to start filling some gaps. **6.e5!**

[ 6.Nxb5 0.04/20 6.e5 0.43 is probably the only other line which makes sense to investigate. Nxe4

**A)** 7.Bxc4?! -0.28/17 7.Qa4 0.11 Bb4+ is already better for Black, as either blocking moves on d2 will hang d4.

**A1)** 8.Bd2? -0.81/23 8.Kf1 -0.31 Nxd2 9.Nxd2 c6∓;

**A2)** 8.Nd2? a6 9.Nc3

**A2a)** 9...Nxc3? -0.20/19 9...Qxd4 -0.71 10.bxc3 Bxc3 11.Rb1! Qxd4 12.Qf3 c6! 13.0-0?? -1.42/22 ( *13.Be2=∞; 13.Be2=* 0.00/23 remains equal.) 13...Bxd2∓ 14.Bxd2 Qxc4-+ 0-1 Dvirnyy, D (2485)-Pichot,A (2621) chess.com INT 2020;

**A2b)** 9...Qxd4! It's important to know, or calculate your way through, this the queen check does not work: 10.Qa4+ -1.40/21 ( *⌓10.0-0* -0.73/21 *Nxd2 11.Be2* ) 10...Nd7∓ 11.Qxb4 ( *11.Ncxe4 Qxe4+*

*12.Kf1 Qb7-+ )* 11...Nxf2! With the double threat of ... Nxh1 and ... Nd3+.

**A2b1)** 12.Nf3 Nd3+

**A2b11)** 13.Kd1? -2.77/25 13.Kd2 -1.21 Qg4!-+ ( or *13...Nxb2+ 14.Kc2 Qxc4 15.Qxb2 Nc5!-+* Inhibits Qb3. );

**A2b12)** 13.Ke2 Qf2+ 14.Kxd3 Nc5+ 15.Qxc5 Qxc5-+;

**A2b2)** 12.Nf3∓ -1.25/23 Nd3+ 13.Ke2 Qf2+ 14.Kxd3 Nc5+ 15.Qxc5 Qxc5 16.Be3 Qf5+ 17.Kd2;

**A2b3)** 12.Ne2 -2.16/20 12...Nd3+-+ 13.Kd1 Qg4! 14.Qc3 Nf2+ 15.Ke1 Nxh1-+;

**A3)** 8.Kf1 0-0!∓ 0-1 Khademalsharieh,S (2494)-Maghsoodloo,P (2676) 2020;

**B)** 7.Qa4 Dodges Bb4+ 7...c6 8.Nc3 Nxc3 9.bxc3 Ba6 10.Bxc4 Bxc4 11.Qxc4 Bd6 The position is playable for both sides. Black has the weakness on c6, but also has a decent amount of activity, especially since ...c5 might fully liberate their position. The following moves are taken from the game Carlsen - Nepomniachtchi: 12.0-0 0-0 13.Rb1 Qc7 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.c4 c5 16.d5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Nb6 18.Qd3

**B1)** 18...Qd7!? 19.g3 ( *19.Rd1?! Rfd8 20.g3 Qg4∓* ) 19...h6 20.Bb2 Rfd8 21.Rfe1 Bf8=;

**B2)** 18...Rad8 19.Qc2 h6 20.a4 Rfe8 21.Be3 Bf4 22.a5 Nc8 23.Bxf4 Qxf4 24.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Nd6 26.Qa4 Re6 27.Qd7 Ne4 28.Re1 a6 29.Qd8+ Kh7 30.Qd3 f5 31.g3 Rd6 ( *31...Qb8 32.Nh4 Qb4 33.Re2 Rd6 34.Qf3 Rf6!=* ) 32.Qb3 Qg4 33.Kg2 Qg6 34.Rd1 Rxd1 35.Qxd1 Qd6= 1/2-1/2 Carlsen,M-Nepomniachtchi,I chess24.com INT 2021 ]

**6...Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Nc3**

[ I believe the more critical test is 10.Qd2!? Bb7 11.Rd1 ( I am guessing that we should see transpositions after the immediate *11.Qf4* judging by the games from the position. )

**A)** Interestingly, only one player has tried 11...0-0 12.Qf4 although here we see some extra games that have come about via the immediate 11.Qf4 move order. Nb4 13.Qg4 Kh8! 14.Nc3 Now 14... Qd7 transposes to 11...Qd7 but I don't really like it in view of 15.Ne4. There's also Rb8 ( and *14...Qe8* (with the idea of ...f5 and some activation of the queen on the kingside) This position ought to be the subject of further analysis in the future. );

**B)** 11...Qd7 12.Nc3 Nb4

**B1)** 13.a3 is not as accurate because Black has N4d5 preventing the queen sortie. 14.Ne4 Qc6! Dodges Nc5 15.Re1 Carlsen,M (2847) - Nepomniachtchi,I (2789) chess24.com INT 2021 h6! A useful waiting move. Now if White plays the natural

*( 15...0-0?! 16.Bd1!↑; 15...0-0-0?! 16.Bf1 f5 17.exf6! gxf6 18.Qe2 Kb8 19.Bd2 Rhg8 20.Rac1 Bd6 21.g3 f5 22.Nxd6 cxd6* 0-1 Carlsen,M-Nepomniachtchi,I chess24.com INT 2021 *23.Qxe6± )* 16.Bf1 then Black can play *( 16.h3 0-0-0* is now a much better version of the opposite-side castling position as Black can use the h3-pawn as a hook to open the g-file. *)* 16...0-0 and the vicious bishop sortie from d1-c2 has been avoided.;

**B2)** 13.Qf4

**B2a)** 13...0-0 14.Qg4 Kh8 15.Ne4 looks very suspicious for Black. *( 15.Qh3* 1/2-1/2 (39) Nihal,S (2610)-Alekseenko,K (2650) Konya 2019 *)*;

**B2b)** 13...0-0-0?! 14.Qxf7± 1-0 (30) Greenfeld,A (2513)-Risting,E (2357) Teplice 2019;

**B2c)** 13...f5 Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2818) Saint Louis 2019 14.exf6 gxf6

**B2c1)** 15.b3 1-0 Cheparinov,I (2670)-Moiseenko,A (2635) chess24.com INT 2020 N4d5 16.Qd2 Bb4 17.Bb2 Rg8 18.bxc4 Nxc4! 19.Bxc4 *( 19.Qc1 Nxb2 20.Nxd5 Qxd5 21.Qxb2 Ba5!∞ )* 19...Nxc3 20.Bxc3 Bxf3 21.g3! Bxc3 22.Qxc3 Bxd1 23.Rxd1 Kf7∞;

**B2c2)** 15.Qh6! 0-0-0 16.Bf4 Rdg8 17.Bg3 Rg6 18.Qd2 0.37/17 *( 18.Qh5±* 0.73/20 *)* 18...h5!± We are now quite deep into this specific line, but I think when Caruana has essayed an obscure line in an important game, it is always necessary to delve a little deeper! I've found a continuation that more or less justifies Black's play, and it's ultra sharp: 19.d5! First of all, White has to find this positional pawn sacrifice. exd5 ( If Black tries to retain the bishop's freedom of movement with *19...N4xd5?! 20.Nxd5 Bxd5* then White gains a strong attack, first with *21.Nh4!* (locking up Black's kingside attack) *Rg5* and then *22.b3↑ )* 20.a3

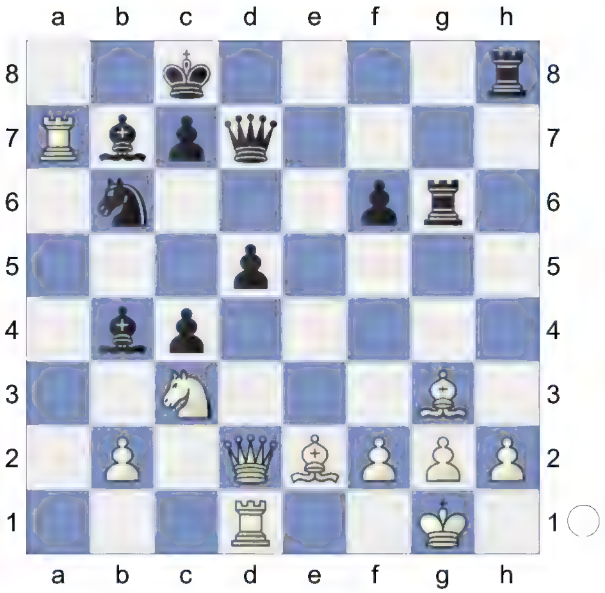
**B2c21)** 20...h4 21.Nxh4 Rxh4 22.axb4! and White is clearly better, although still some understanding of dynamic play would be helpful. *( 22.Bxh4* 0.11/18 22.axb4 0.51 *d4! 23.Bg3! dxc3 24.Qxd7+ Nxd7 25.Bxc4 cxb2 26.Rab1 Na6∞ )* 22...Rh8 23.Rxa7 Bxb4

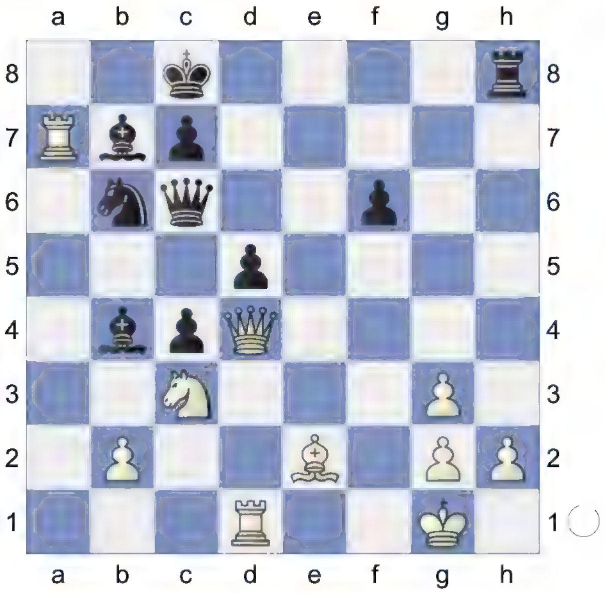
(Diagram)

24.Qd4! Rxg3 25.fxg3 Qc6

(Diagram)

26.Kh1! Bf3 would now





be deadly. Kb8 27.Rxb7+! Qxb7 28.Bf3±;

**B2c22) 20...Nd3** 21.Bxd3 cxd3 22.Qxd3 Rg4 23.h3! h4! Here we go... 24.Bxc7! *( 24.hxg4* 0.09/17 24.Bxc7 0.54 *hxg3 25.Qf5 Qxf5 26.gxf5 Bc5 27.Nd4 gxf2+ 28.Kxf2 Rh4 29.Nce2* Hoping for b4. *Nc4*

gives Black good compensation.*)* 24...Rxg2+ 25.Kxg2 Kxc7 26.Nd4 Kb8 27.Rac1 Bd6! 28.Kf1 Ding would have needed to play like an engine for almost every move to get to this position and even here, Black has sufficient compensation. ]

**10...0-0**

[ 10...Bb7 11.Na4!± ]

**11.Be3**

[ 11.Qd2!? is similar to the above sidenote, except that Black has been forced into castling kingside. I don't actually think that's a bad thing for Black, but it means the madness in the Ding-Caruana game can be avoided. Kh8 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Qf4 Nb4 ]

**11...Rb8N**

[ 11...Bb7 12.Qb1 *( 12.Na4 Ba6 13.Rc1 Nb4 14.a3 Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd5 19.b4 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 12...Rb8 13.Ne4 Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6 25.h4 h5 26.g3 Qb5 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4.h3 ♘f6 5. ♘f3 00 6. ♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 (5) ]

**12.b3 cxb3 13.axb3 Bb7 14.Qb1 a6 15.Rc1**

[ It might've been more critical to grab the pawn with 15.Bxa6 Bxa6 16.Rxa6 Nb4 17.Ra1 though Black is doing fine here as well: Qd7 18.Rc1

Ra8 19.Na4 Nxa4 20.bxa4 Rxa4 21.Rxa4 Qxa4 22.Rxc7 Nd5 23.Rc2 Ra8=∞ ]

**15...Nb4** Black has reached more or less an optimal position for the system. The most important factors are the control over the h1-a8 diagonal and the blockade on d5. Black's pieces all have mobility whereas some of White's pieces (in particular, the bishop on e3 and queen on b1) are somewhat passive. White is by no means worse, but it could be said that Black has won the opening battle. **16.Ne4 h6** Prevents Nfg5 **17.Nc5**

[ 17.h3 N6d5 18.Bd2 Qd7∞ ]

**17...Bxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd7**

[ 18...N6d5⇄ ]

**19.Rc1 Bd5 20.Ra4 Rb7**

[ A theme we've already seen is 20...a5!? 21.Rxa5 c5! and Black has more than enough counterplay. 22.Ra4 cxd4 23.Bxd4 *( 23.Nxd4 Nxe5= )* 23...Nc6= ]

**21.Nd2**

[Don't play 21.Bxa6 Nxa6 22.Rxa6 Rxb3= *( 22...Bxb3 23.Qe4= )*]

**21...c5!?** It makes sense to play the position actively. Deflection **22.dxc5**

[ 22.Bxa6? loses. Nxa6 23.Rxa6 cxd4∓ ]

**22...Nxe5 23.Nc4**

[ 23.Bxa6 Nxa6 24.Rxa6 Qh4 25.Qc2! would have been the most testing continuation. Black would then need to play quite precisely. *( 25.h3 f5! 26.Qa1! Nc6!* White must now prevent ...f4! *27.f3 Rf6!∞ )*

**A)** 25...Qg4? 0.77/19 25...Ng4 0.25 26.f3! Bxf3 *( 26...Nxf3+?* 2.84/18 26...Qh5 0.66 *27.Nxf3* aiming for Ra4. *Bxf3 28.Ra4!+- )* 27.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 28.Kh1+-;

**B)** 25...Ng4 26.Nf1!

**B1)** 26...Ne5!? is also given by the computer, shoring up the c6-square so that 27.c6?! -0.24/20 *( 27.Rb6* With the idea Rxb7. *Ra7!* and Black is apparently OK. Variations like this are somewhat suspicious from a practical point of view, as Black is forced to find an obscure path to equality by placing his pieces somewhat artificially.; White should try *27.Rd6⩲* 0.38/22 *)* leads nowhere: 27...Rc7!⩱;

**B2)** 26...Rxb3 27.Rb6! Nxe3 28.Nxe3 Rxb6 29.cxb6 Bb7 30.h3 Qc7 is the strong threat. Qb4 31.Rb1 Qd4 32.Qc4 Qe5 Black just about holds on since the bishop cannot really be ousted from b7. ]

[ 23.Bxa6 feels hotter. Nxa6 24.Rxa6 Qh4 25.Qc2 ]

**23...Bxc4 24.Bxc4 Qb8**

[ 24...a5 25.Qe4 Nxc4! 26.Qxb7 Nxe3 27.fxe3 Threatens to win with Rxb4. Qd2 28.Rf1 Strongly threatening Qe4. Qxe3+ 29.Kh1 Qxc5=∞ ]

**25.Bxa6** -0.01/25

[ 25.Qe4 0.10/18 25.Bd2 0.49 Nxc4 26.Rxc4 Nd5 27.b4 Rd7 28.Ra1 Rfd8!∞ ]

[ 25.Bd2 a5 26.Bf1 Nbc6 27.Qe4⩲ ]

[ 25.Bd2⩲ 0.40/21 feels stronger. ]

**25...Nxa6= 26.Rxa6 Ng4** Discovered Attack **27.g3**

[ 27.Rd6 Rxb3 28.Qe4 Nxe3 29.fxe3 Qa7= ]

**27...Rxb3 28.Qe4 Nxe3 29.fxe3 Rb2→ 30.c6??** -4.86/20 Finally White chokes. Up to this point, he was playing accurately.

[ 30.Raa1 Qb5 And now ...Qe2 would win. 31.Rab1= ]

[ 30.Ra3= -0.11/27 and White stays safe. ]

**30...Qb5!-+ 31.Qc4** -12.38/19

[ ⌓31.Qd4 -4.77/18 Qe2 Double Attack 32.Qxb2 Qxb2 33.Raa1 ]

**31...Qh5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.61/ Black=0.03 (flawless)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Carlsen,Magnus 2835**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof 2738**
Tata Steel-A 81st (12) 26.01.2019
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Qa4+** White has an edge. **8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4! c5 14.Qc2 cxd4 15.Rxd4 Bc5N**

[ 15...h6 16.Bf4 Bc5 17.Rd3 Nh5 18.Be3 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Qxe4 22.Rc3 Qxc2 23.Rxc2 Chapter-9.dxc5 10,Bg5 ]

**16.Rh4** 0.23/21 White is more active.

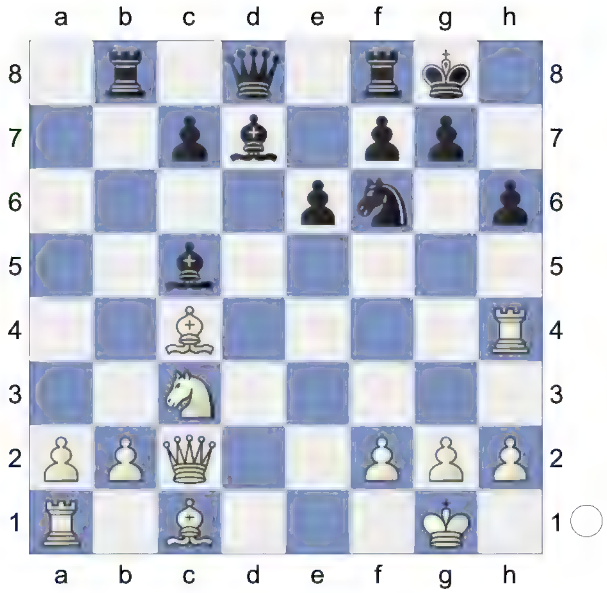
[ 16.Rd1⩲ 0.61/22 ]

**16...h6** 0.61/19

[ 16...Re8= 0.23/21 ]

(Diagram)

**17.Bxh6!⩲ gxh6 18.Qd2 Nh7 19.Qxh6 Bxf2+! 20.Kxf2 Qf6+ 21.Qxf6** Intending Rg4+ and mate. **21...Rxb2+**



**22.Kg1 Nxf6 23.Rf1 Kg7** 0.96/21

[ 23...Ne8⩲ 0.50/21 ]

**24.Rf3!↑** Keeping Black busy. **24...Rg8 25.Rhf4 Bc6 26.Rxf6 Bxf3 27.Rxf3 Rd8 28.Rf2 Rb4 29.Bb5 Ra8 30.a4** 0.34/20

[ 30.Bd3± 0.97/24 ]

**30...c6!⩲ 31.Be2**

[ 31.Bxc6 Rc8 32.Bb5 Rxc3∓ ]

**31...Ra5** 0.79/22

[ 31...Rb3!⩲ 0.34/25 32.Rf3 Ra3 ]

**32.Rf3± f5 33.Kf2 Rc5 34.Bd1 e5 35.Ne2 Kf6 36.Ra3 Rb1 37.Ke1 e4 38.g3** 0.82/27

[ ⌓38.h4 1.21/21 ]

**38...Ke5 39.h4 Ra5 40.h5 c5 41.Kd2** 0.70/19

[ 41.Ra2± 1.35/21 ]

**41...c4⩲** ...Rd5+ is the strong threat. **42.Kc2 Rb8 43.Kc3** 0.15/22

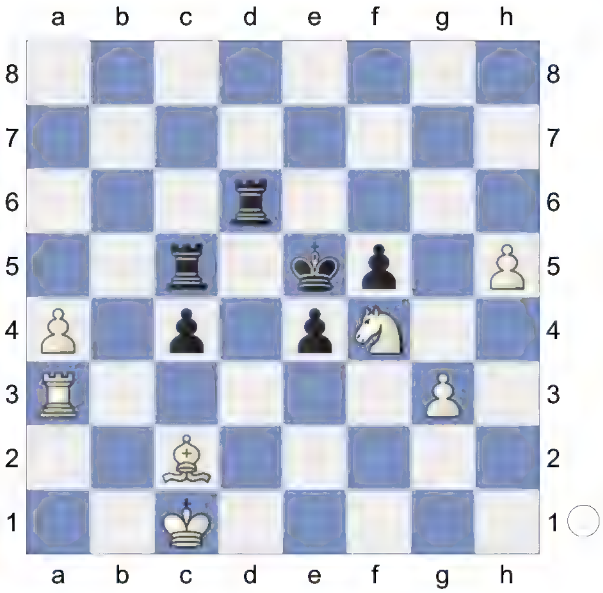
[ 43.Nf4⩲ 0.67/23 ]

**43...Rb1** 0.63/22

[ 43...Rd8= 0.15/22 was preferrable. 44.Bc2 Rad5 ]

**44.Kc2! Rb8 45.Kc1 Rb6 46.Bc2 Rd6 47.Nf4 Rc5** 1.11/21

[ 47...Ra8⩲ 0.62/22 ]



**48.Re3** 0.53/21

[White should try 48.Ra2!± 1.11/21 ]

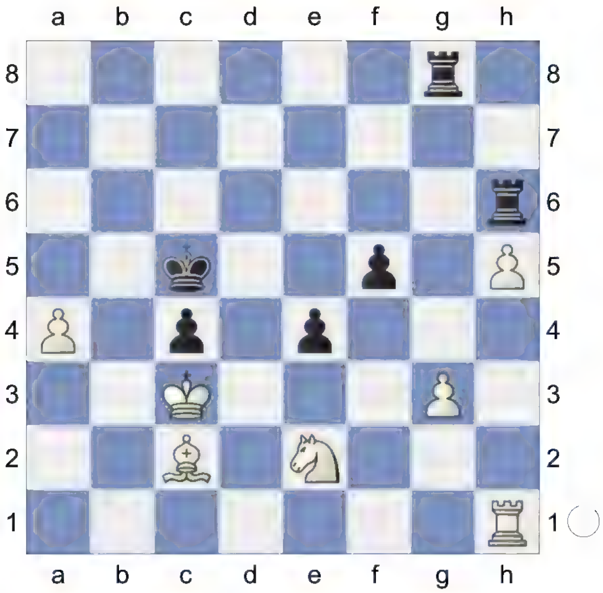
**48...Kd4 49.Re1** aiming for Rd1+. White now steadily converts the win. **49...Rh6** 1.54/13

[ ⌓49...Kc3 0.94/19 50.Ne2+ Kb4 ]

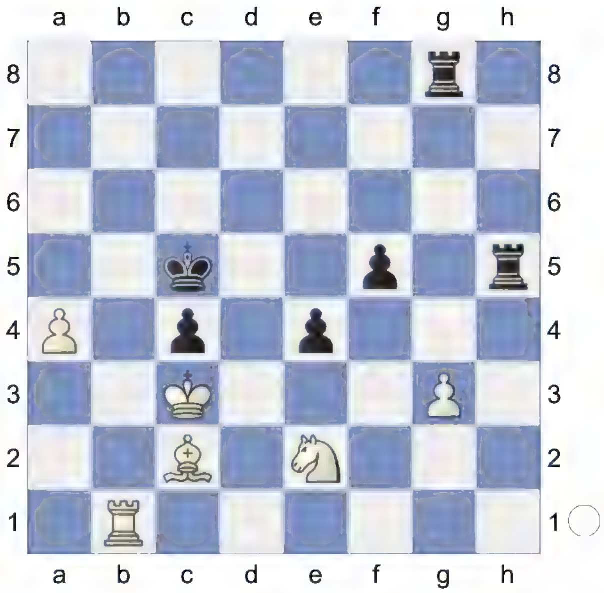
**50.Kd2±** And now g4! would win. **50...Re5** 2.08/23

[ 50...Ra5± 1.58/17 51.g4 c3+ 52.Kc1 fxg4 53.Rxe4+ Kc5 ]

**51.Ne2++- Kc5 52.Rh1 Re8 53.Kc3 Rg8**



**54.Rb1! Rxh5**



**55.Bxe4! Re8 56.Nf4 Rg5 57.Rb5+** Skewer **57...Kd6 58.Bxf5** Black must now prevent g4.

[ 58.Rxf5 Rxg3+ 59.Kd4 ( *59.Kxc4 Rxe4+ 60.Kb5 Rb3+ 61.Ka5 Ra3-+* ) 59...Rd8 ]

**58...Rxg3+ 59.Kd4** Threatens to win with Rb6+.

[ 59.Kxc4?! Re5 ]

**59...Rg1** 3.18/19

[ 59...Re1 2.04/19 was worth a try. 60.Rb6+ ( *60.Kxc4 Rc1+ 61.Kb4 Rd1+-* ) 60...Ke7 61.Ng6+ ( *61.Kxc4 Rg5+-* ) 61...Kd8 ]

**60.Rb6+**

[ 60.Kxc4?! Re5+- ]

**60...Ke7 61.Ng6+**

[ 61.Kxc4 Rc1+ 62.Kb5 Rd8 63.Ng6+ Kf7+- ]

**61...Kf7 62.Ne5+**

[But not 62.Kxc4?! Rg5± ]

**62...Kg8 63.Nxc4 Ra8 64.a5 Ra1 65.Rb5 Ra7 66.Be4 Rc7 67.Rf5 Kg7 68.Bc2 Rc1 69.Kc3 Rf7 70.Rxf7+ Kxf7 71.Na3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

**1-0**

D24

☐ **Molina,Roberto Junio Brito** **2835**
■ **Ferri,Stefano** **2738**
ARG I15 corr (12) 26.01.2019
*[Kitty Kat]*

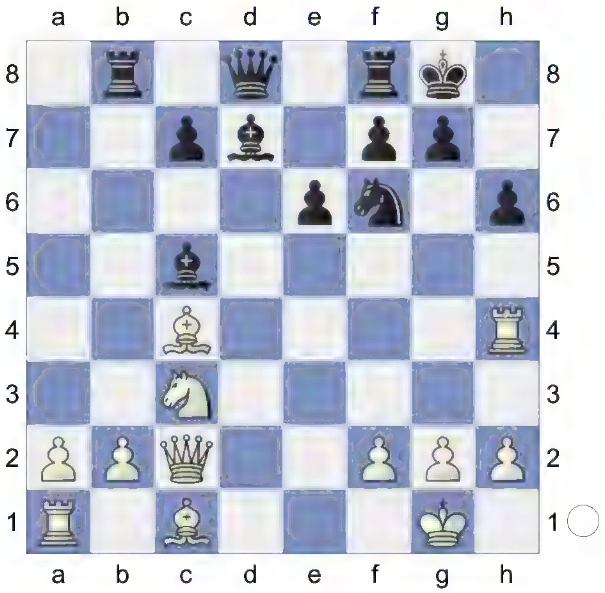
D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.Qa4+** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4! c5 14.Qc2 cxd4 15.Rxd4 Bc5N**

[ 15...h6 16.Bf4 Bc5 17.Rd3 Nh5 18.Be3 Bd6 19.Ne4 Bxh2+ 20.Kxh2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 Qxe4 22.Rc3 Qxc2 23.Rxc2 Chapter-9.dxc5 10,Bg5 ]

**16.Rh4 h6** 0.81/17

[ 16...Qe7= 0.25/19 remains equal. ]



**17.Bxh6!± gxh6 18.Qd2 Nh7 19.Qxh6 Bxf2+! 20.Kxf2 Qf6+ 21.Qxf6** White wants to mate with Rg4+. **21...Rxb2+ 22.Kg1 Nxf6 23.Rf1 Kg7** 0.97/21

[ 23...Ne8⩲ 0.32/23 ]

**24.Rf3! Rg8 25.Rhf4 Bc6 26.Rxf6 Bxf3 27.Rxf3 Rd8 28.Rf2 Rb4 29.Bb5 Ra8 30.a4** 0.40/21

[ 30.Bd3± 0.88/25 ]

**30...c6!⩲ 31.Be2**

[ 31.Bxc6? Rc8 32.Bb5 Rxc3-+ ]

**31...Ra5** 0.75/24

[ 31...Rb3!= 0.28/24 32.Rf3 Ra3 ]

**32.Rf3± f5 33.Kf2 Rc5 34.Bd1 e5 35.Ne2 Kf6 36.Ra3 Rb1 37.Ke1 e4 38.g3 Ke5 39.h4 Ra5 40.h5 c5** 1.35/21

[ ⌓40...Ra6 0.96/19 41.Ra2 Ra7 ]

**41.Kd2** 0.78/19

[Better is 41.Ra2 1.35/21 ]

**41...c4** Hoping for ...Rd5+. **42.Kc2 Rb8 43.Kc3** 0.12/23

[ 43.Nf4± 0.76/18 ]

**43...Rb1** 0.62/22

[ 43...Rd8= 0.12/23 44.Bc2 Rad5 ]

**44.Kc2!⩲ Rb8 45.Kc1 Rb6 46.Bc2 Rd6 47.Nf4 Rc5 48.Re3 Kd4** 1.06/18

[ 48...Rc7⩲ 0.63/18 ]

**49.Re1** 0.63/19

[ 49.Re2!± 1.06/18 Rd2+ is the strong threat. Kc3 50.Rh2 ]

**49...Rh6** 2.08/20 This move loses the game for Black.

[ 49...Kc3!⩲ 0.63/19 50.g4 fxg4 ]

**50.Kd2** And now g4! would win. **50...Re5** 2.10/23

[ 50...Ra5± 1.42/19 was necessary. 51.g4 c3+ 52.Kc1 fxg4 53.Rxe4+ Kc5 ]

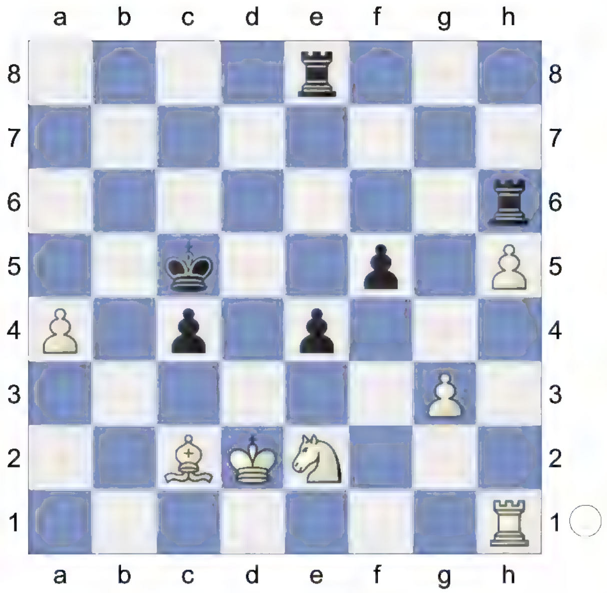
**51.Ne2++- Kc5 52.Rh1 Re8**

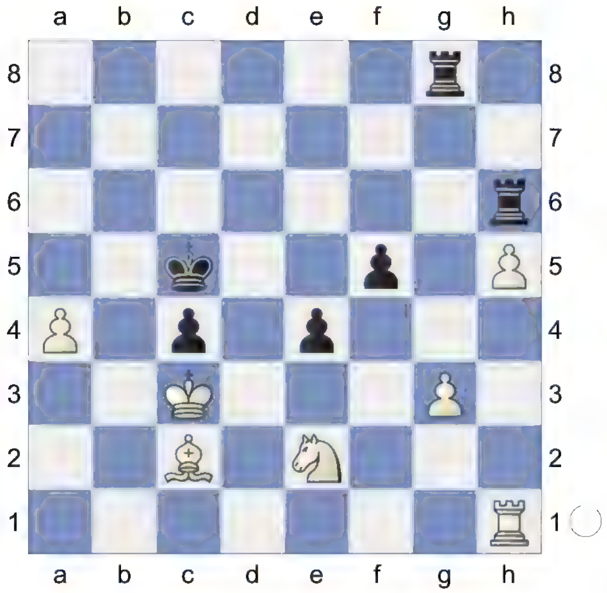
(Diagram)

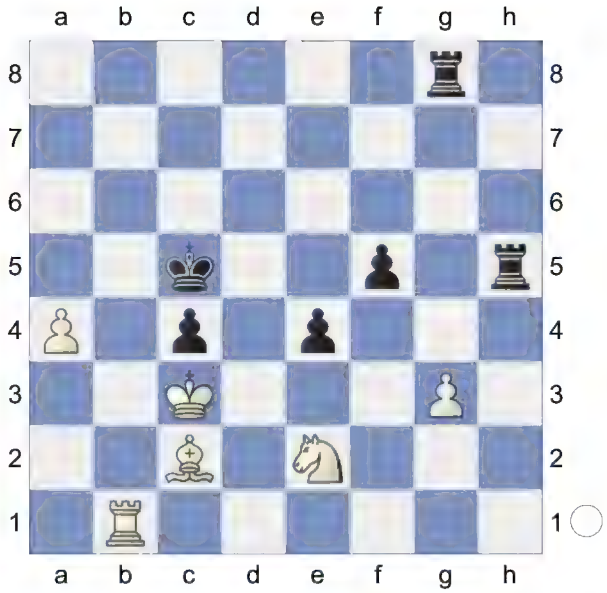
**53.Kc3! Rg8**

(Diagram)

**54.Rb1!** Strongly threatening Rb5+. **54...Rxh5**







**55.Bxe4! Re8 56.Nf4 Rg5 57.Rb5+** Skewer **57...Kd6 58.Bxf5**

[ 58.Rxf5 Rxf5 59.Bxf5 Re3+ 60.Kxc4 Ra3± ]

**58...Rxg3+ 59.Kd4**

[ 59.Kxc4 Re5 ]

**59...Rg1** 3.34/17

[ 59...Ra8 2.17/18 keeps fighting. 60.Rb6+ *( 60.Kxc4 Rxa4+ 61.Rb4 Rxb4+ 62.Kxb4 Rf3= )* 60...Ke7 61.Nd5+ *( 61.Kxc4 Rxa4+ 62.Rb4 Rxb4+ 63.Kxb4 Rg1= )* 61...Kf8 ]

**60.Rb6+**

[Don't play 60.Kxc4?! Re5+- ]

**60...Ke7 61.Ng6+**

[But not 61.Kxc4 Ra1 62.Nd5+ Kf8 63.Rf6+ Kg7 64.Rg6+ Kf7+- ]

**61...Kf7 62.Ne5+**

[Much less strong is 62.Kxc4 Rg5± ]

**62...Kg8 63.Nxc4 Ra8 64.a5 Ra1 65.Rb5 Ra7 66.Be4 Rc7 67.Rf5 Kg7 68.Bc2 Rc1 69.Kc3 Rf7 70.Rxf7+ Kxf7 71.Na3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise)

**1-0**

D24

☐ **Ding,Liren** **2804**

■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2739**

Olympiad-43 Batumi (10.1) 04.10.2018

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Qf4 Rb8** aiming for ...Nd5. **12.Nc3 f5 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rd1! Nb4 15.b3 cxb3 16.axb3 a6 17.Bc4 Nc2 18.Ra2 Nb4 19.Ra1 Nc2 20.Ra2**

[ 20.Rb1 simplifies a5 21.h4 Nxc4 22.bxc4 Rxb1 23.Nxb1 Nb4 24.Nc3 ]

**20...Nb4** Threatens to win with ...Nxc4! **21.Re2 a5 22.d5 exd5** 1.02/15

[ 22...N4xd5= -0.01/20 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 exd5 ]

**23.e6!± Bd6** 1.25/18

[ ⌓23...Rb7 0.73/18 ]

**24.Qh3N** 0.49/21 White has more active pieces.

[ 24.Bg5? Bxg3 25.Bxd8 Rxd8∓ *( 25...dxc4 26.hxg3 Na6 27.e7± )*]

[ 24.Bf4!± 1.25/18 e7 would now be deadly. Qf6 *( 24...dxc4? 25.e7+-; 24...Rb7 25.Nb5 Bxf4 26.Qxf4 Qe7 27.Bd3* ABersicht 79th ch-BUL 2015*)* 25.Bxd6 *( 25.Bxd5 N4xd5 26.Nxd5 Nxd5= )* 25...cxd6 26.Qxd6 *( 26.Bxd5 N4xd5 27.Nxd5 Nxd5= )* 26...Bxe6 27.Rxe6 Qxc3 28.Bf1 ]

**24...Qf6⩲**

[ 24...dxc4? 25.Ng5+- *( 25.e7 Bxe7 26.Rxd8 Bxd8+-; 25.e7 Bxe7 26.Rxd8 Bxd8± )*]

**25.Nb5!** And now Nxd6 would win. Really sharp! **25...dxc4 26.Nxd6** -0.28/13

[ 26.Ng5!± 0.86/16 Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 ]

**26...cxd6?** 1.35/12

[ 26...Bxe6= -0.28/13 27.Nxc4 Bxc4 *( 27...Nxc4 28.bxc4 Nc6 29.Ree1∓ )* 28.bxc4 Nxc4 ]

**27.e7± Re8** 1.91/16

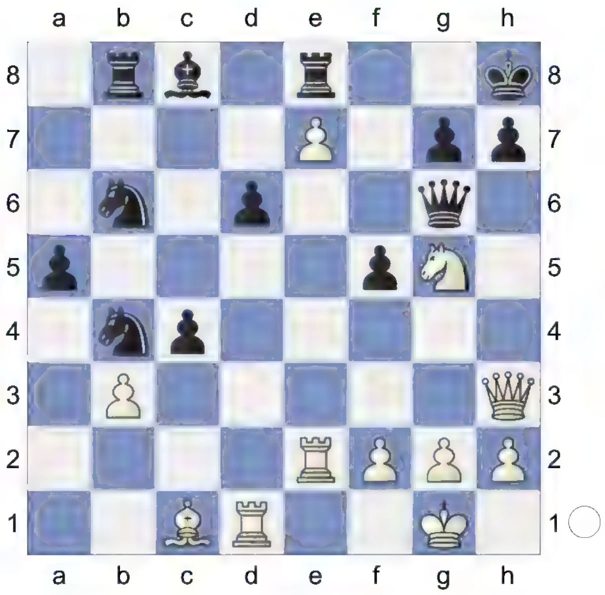
[ 27...cxb3? 28.Ng5 *( 28.e8B? f4-+; 28.exf8B Qxf8 29.Ng5* Discovered Attack *h6+-; 28.exf8N Qxf8 29.Ng5 h6+- )* 28...h6 29.Bb2+- *( 29.e8B? f4-+; 29.e8Q Bd7+-; 29.exf8B N4d5+-; 29.exf8N Ba6+-; 29.exf8Q+ Qxf8+- )*]

[ 27...Bd7± 1.36/18 28.exf8B *( 28.exf8R+ Rxf8 29.bxc4 Nxc4± )* 28...Rxf8 ]

**28.Ng5+- Qg6**

[ 28...Rxe7 29.Qxh7# ]

[ 28...h6 29.Qh5 Bd7 *( 29...Rxe7 30.Qe8+* Back Rank *Rxe8 31.Rxe8+ )* 30.Rxd6+- ]



**29.Rxd6** Deflection **29...f4 30.Qh4 Qb1**

[ 30...Qf5? 31.Qh5 *( 31.Bxf4 Qb1+; 31.Re5 Qc2= )* 31...Bd7 32.Rh6 *( 32.Rxd7 Nxd7 33.Nf7+* Discovered Attack *Qxf7+- )* 32...gxh6 *( 32...Kg8*

*33.Rxh7 g6 34.Rh8+ Kg7 35.Bb2+ c3 36.Bxc3+ )* 33.Nf7++- ]

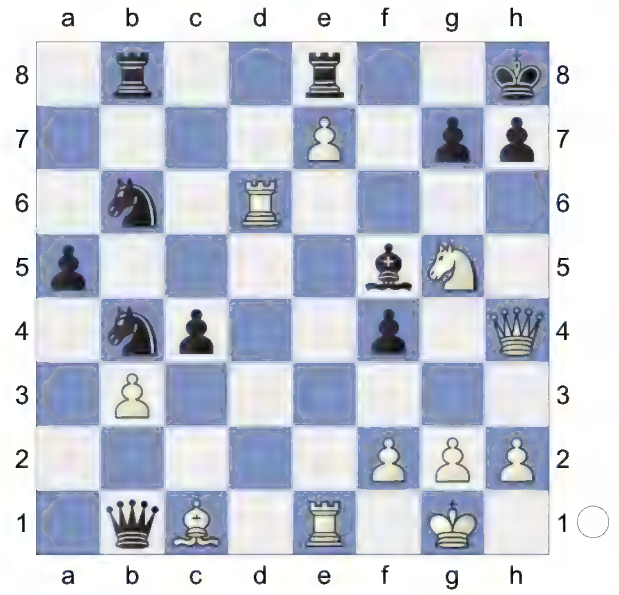
**31.Re1→** 0.39/18 White mounts an attack.

[ 31.Nf7+ Kg8 32.Re1 ( *32.Qxf4? Bf5-+* ) 32...Bd7 ( *32...Kxf7 33.Qh5+±; 32...cxb3 33.Qxf4 Bd7 34.Rxd7=; 32...Qf5 33.Nh6+ gxh6 34.Bxf4∓* ) 33.Nh6+ gxh6-+ ]

[ 31.Qxf4+- 1.75/19 Threatening mate with Qf8+. Bd7 ( *31...cxb3 32.Qf8+* Back Rank ) 32.Rf6 ( *32.bxc4 Nd3=; 32.Nf7+ Kg8∓* )]

**31...Bf5?** 4.09/19

[ 31...Bd7!± 0.39/18 32.Bd2 Qf5 ( *32...Qxb3 33.Qxh7#* )]



This costs Black the game. **32.Rd8!**

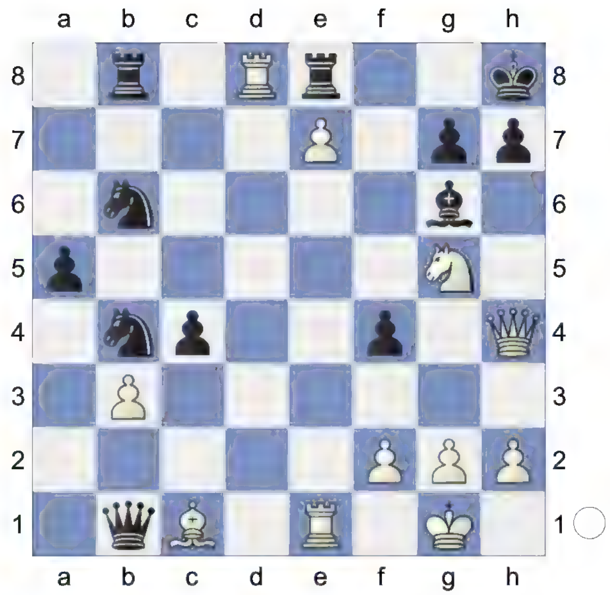
[ 32.Qxf4 N4d5 ( *32...cxb3? 33.Rd8+-* ) 33.Rxd5 Nxd5+- ]

**32...Bg6** 8.25/21

[ 32...Nc6 3.42/17 ]

(Diagram)

Prevents Nf7+ **33.Rxb8!** White is clearly winning.



[ 33.Qxf4? perishes. Rbxd8 ( *33...Rexd8? 34.exd8N Rxd8 35.Bd2-+* ) 34.exd8Q Rxd8-+ ]

[Worse is 33.Nxh7 Kg8 34.Nf6+ ( *34.Qxf4? Rbxd8 35.exd8R Rxd8-+* ) 34...gxf6∓ ]

**33...Rxb8 34.Qxf4** White wants to mate with Qf8+. **34...Rg8** Hoping for ...N6d5. **35.Nf7+**

[Inferior is 35.bxc4 Nc8 36.Nf7+ Bxf7 37.Qxf7 Nxe7 38.Qxe7 Nd3= ]

**35...Bxf7 36.Qxf7 Nd7 37.e8Q Nf6 38.Bg5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.28 (precise)

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Vidit,Santosh Gujrathi** **2695**
■ **Duda,Jan Krzysztof** **2738**
81st Tata Steel GpA (1.4) 12.01.2019
*[M Pavlovic,MH]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5** 0.75/25 This is one of Pert's recommendations in his 'Playing the Ragozin' book. In older times this line was considered dubious, but today with engines such tactical play is very much possible.

[ 6...h6= 0.17/23 keeps the balance. 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 ]

**7.a4** 0.30/23

[ 7.e5± 0.75/25 ]

**7...c5!?=**

[ Better this than transposing to a worse line of the Botvinnik with 7...c6 0.76/23 7...c5 0.33 ]

**8.axb5** Obviously critical.

[Max looked at the harmless 8.dxc5 -0.21/21 8.axb5 0.36 in Jarmula,L-Piorun,K. ]

**8...cxd4 9.Nxd4** White is slightly better.

[ 9.Qa4 -0.10/21 9.Nxd4 0.39 Bc5 10.e5? -1.98/20 ( *10.Bxf6= -0.09/25 gxf6 11.Qxc4 dxc3 12.Qxc5 cxb2 13.Rb1* ) 10...dxc3-+ 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4 -2.79/20 ( *12.Rd1 -1.85/20* might work better. *Nd7 13.Bc1* ) 12...cxb2-+ 13.Rd1

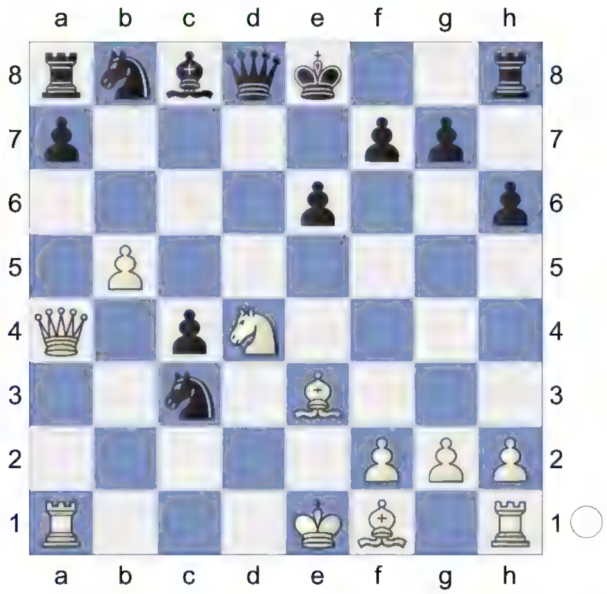
A) 13...Nd7 14.Bxc4 Bb7 15.0-0 Rg8 16.Qb3 Qb6? -0.64/18 Black is fine here as well, Nikolov,M (2567)-Sulava,N (2425) Zagreb CRO 2018 1-0 (35). ( *16...Qe7!-+ -2.25/21 17.Rfe1 Rg4* );

B) 13...Qd5! Simply wins for Black. ]

**9...h6 10.Bxf6**

[ 10.Be3!? Nxe4 11.Qa4

A) 11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Strongly threatening b6+. Nxc3



13.Qa3! Nd5 14.Bxc4 Bb7 1.62/24 (Black should try *14...Nxe3± 0.59/20 15.fxe3 Bb7* ) 15.0-0 0.98/23 ( *15.Bxd5+- 1.62/24 Qxd5 16.f3* ) 15...Qe7± 16.Bxd5 0.42/20

(Better is *16.Bc1±* 1.02/22 ) 16...Bxd5⩲ 17.Rfc1 White is better, Illescas Cordoba, M (2605)-Mingarro Carceller,S (2363) Barcelona ESP 2018 1-0 (62);

**B)** 11...Nxc3!? 12.Qxb4 Nd5 13.Qa3 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 Qc7 15.Ra4 0-0 16.Bxc4 -0.24/23 ( *16.Rxc4⩲* 0.49/21 *Qa5+ 17.Qc3 Qxc3+ 18.Rxc3* ) 16...Nd7= Threatens to win with ...Nb6. 17.Be2 Nb6 18.Ra3 Nd5 19.Qd2 Bb7 20.0-0 Nf4 ...Rad8! is the strong threat. 21.Bf3 Rfd8 Black is fine. ]

**10...Qxf6 11.Bxc4 0-0** Black is weak on the light squares **12.0-0 Bb7** So far this is Pert's main line. Black is a pawn down but his bishop pair, plus good control of the dark squares, helps maintain counterplay. **13.Qa4**

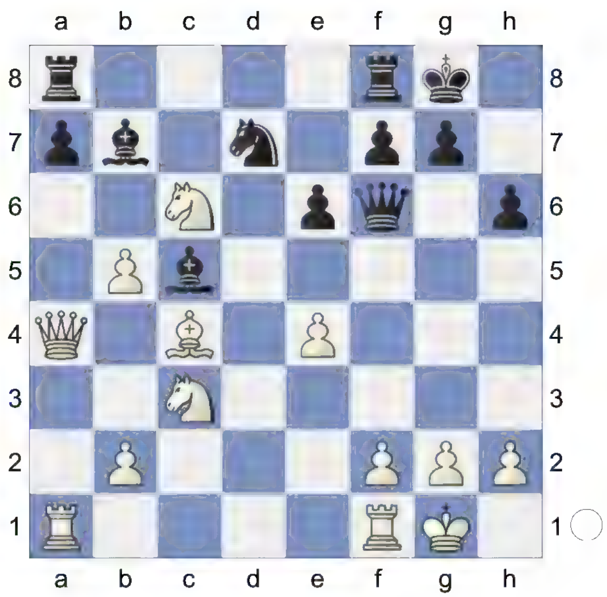
[ One example from the now famous A. I recently developed by a Google team: 13.Ra4 Qe7 14.Qg4 Bc5 15.e5 And now Nxc5 would win. ( *15.e5!?* ) 15...a6! 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.b4! Bb6 18.Qxe6+ Qxe6 19.Bxe6+ Kh7! ...Bc4! would now be deadly. 20.Bd5! Ra7 Black should be able to defend this position. Stockfish 8-AlphaZero London ENG 2018 1/2-1/2 (255) ]

**13...a5** A strong innovation.

[ 13...Bc5 0.52/24 13...a5 -0.16 14.Nc6 Nd7?! 1.05/20 ( *14...a6; 14...Qf4⩲* 0.53/22 )

(Diagram)

15.e5!± Nxe5 1.56/25 ( *⌓15...Qf5* 1.15/22 ) 16.Ne4± Qf4 aiming for ...Ng4! 17.Nxc5 Bxc6 18.bxc6 Qxc4 19.Qxc4 Nxc4 20.Rfc1 Nb6 21.b4 1.02/17 ( *⌓21.g3* 1.41/21 ) 21...Nd5 2.14/23 ( *21...Rfd8±* 1.02/17 keeps fighting. *22.c7 Rd4* ) 22.b5 with a winning advantage in Sulava,N (2452)-Petrov,N (2566) Bratto 2017, although White messed it up around the time control and even lost. ]



**14.bxa6 Nxa6 15.Nde2 Bd6 16.Bxa6 Bxa6 17.Qc2** -0.78/21

[ 17.Qc6!∓ -0.34/22 is superior. Qe5 18.g3 ]

**17...Rfd8** -0.24/19

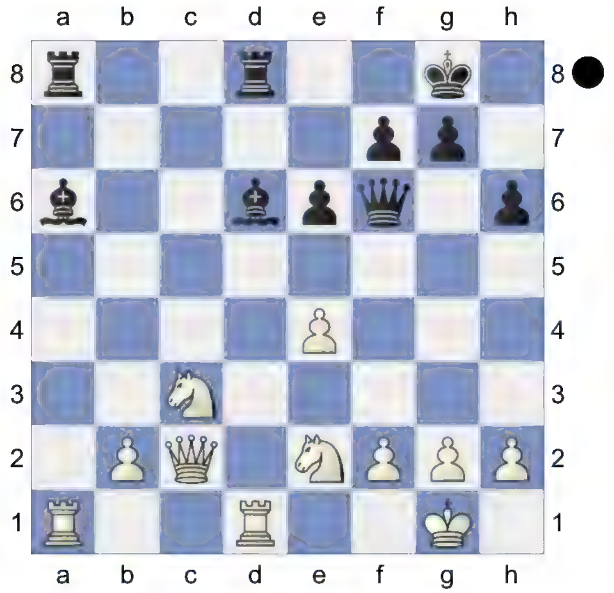
[ 17...Bc5! 18.h3 Rfd8 Black has fine play. ]

[Black should play 17...Bc5∓ -0.78/21 ]

**18.Rfd1**

(Diagram)

**Bd3! 19.Qd2 Rxa1 20.Rxa1 Bc5** White must now prevent ...Xd5. This pair of bishops is nice. **21.Qf4 Qxf4 22.Nxf4 Bc2** Repels Rd1 **23.Re1 g5 24.Nh5 Rd4 25.Ng3 Rb4 26.Rc1 Rxb2** After a serious of moves, we have come to a position in which Black has slightly the better chances though objectively it should be a draw. Threatening ...Bb6.



**27.Nd1! Rb1 28.Rxc2 Rxd1+** Endgame. KRB-KRN **29.Nf1 Bd6 30.g3 Re1 31.f3 h5 32.Kf2 Ra1 33.Nd2 Be5 34.Nb3 Rd1 35.Rd2 Rb1 36.Nc5 Bc3 37.Rd8+ Kg7 38.Nd3** Dodges Rb2+ **38...Ra1 39.Rd7 Ra2+ 40.Kg1 Ra1+** The position is equal. **41.Kg2 Ra2+ 42.Kh1 g4 43.fxg4 hxg4 44.h3 Ra1+ 45.Kg2 Ra2+** Deflection **46.Kh1 gxh3 47.Nf4 Kf6 48.Nxh3 Re2 49.Rd3 Be5 50.Kg1 Rxe4 51.Rf3+ Kg6 52.Rxf7** A good defensive idea, the defense is not at all simple, but White is up to the task. Decoy **52...Bxg3 53.Rf3 Be5 54.Kf1 Rh4 55.Ke2 Bf6 56.Nf4+ Kf7 57.Rf1 Rh6 58.Kd3 Be5 59.Ke4 Bd6 60.Nd5+ Ke8 61.Nf6+ Kd8 62.Rd1 Rh4+ 63.Kf3 Ke7 64.Ng8+ Kd7 65.Nf6+ Kc6 66.Rc1+ Kb5 67.Ne4 Ba3 68.Rc8 e5 69.Nc3+ Kb4 70.Nd5+ Kb3 71.Rc3+ Ka2 72.Re3 Bb2 73.Re4 Rh6 74.Nb4+ Kb3 75.Nd3 Rf6+ 76.Kg4 Kc2 77.Nxb2 Rf4+ 78.Rxf4 exf4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar 2801**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano 2822**
6th Sinquefield Cup 2018 (3.2) 20.08.18
*[Kiitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Nc3 Rb8N**

[ 11...Bb7

**A)** 12.Qb1 Rb8 13.Ne4 ( *13.Qe4 Nd5 14.Bxc4 Ncb4 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ) 13...Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6 25.h4 h5 26.g3 Qb5 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4.h3 ♘f6 5. ♘f3 00 6. ♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 (5);

**B)** 12.Na4 Ba6 13.Rc1 Nb4 14.a3 Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd5 19.b4 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ]

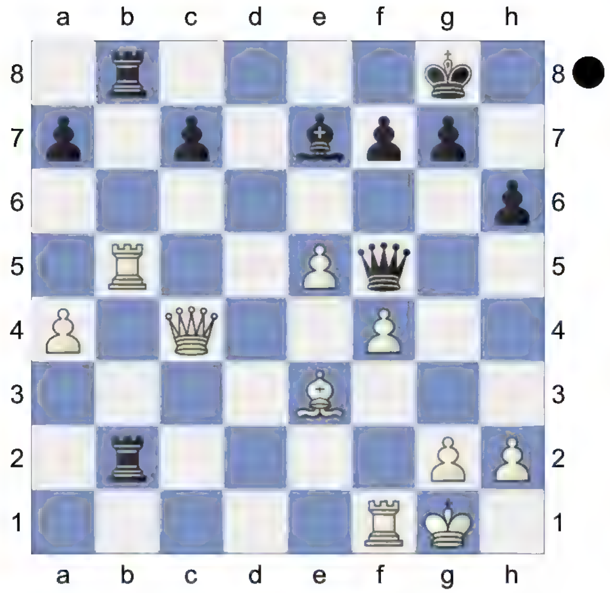
**12.a3 Bb7 13.Qc2 Na5 14.Rad1 h6 15.Nd2 Qd7 16.f4** -0.06/19

[ 16.Nde4± 0.45/21 ]

**16...Nd5= 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Qc3 Rb5 19.Nxc4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Rxb2 22.d5 exd5 23.Rxd5 Qf5 24.a4 Rfb8 25.Rb5!**

[ 25.Bxa7 R8b4 26.Qd3 Qxd3 27.Rxd3 Rxa4-+ ]

[ 25.Qxc7? Qe4 26.Bf2 Qxd5-+ ]



**25...c5! 26.Rxb8+**
[ 26.Bxc5? R2xb5 27.Bxe7 *( 27.axb5? Rc8-+ )* 27...Rb1-+ ]

**26...Rxb8 27.Qd5**
[ 27.Bxc5? Rc8 28.Kh1 a5-+ *( 28...Bxc5? 29.Qb5-+; 28...Rxc5? 29.Qd4-+ )*]

**27...Rd8 28.Qc4 Rb8 29.Qd5**
[ 29.Bxc5? Rc8 30.Qe2 Rxc5-+ *( 30...Bxc5+? 31.Kh1-+ )*]

**29...Rd8 30.Qc4 a5 31.h3 h5 32.Rc1**
[ 32.Bxc5? Rc8 33.Kh2 Rxc5-+ *( 33...Bxc5? 34.Qd5-+ )*]

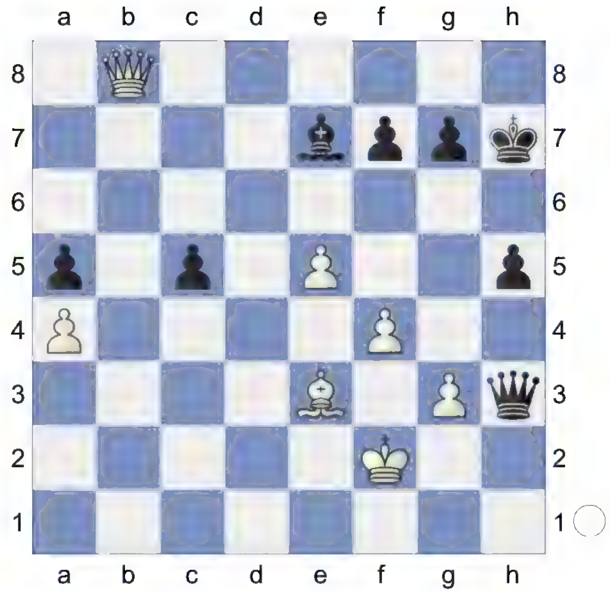
**32...Rd3**
[ 32...g6 simplifies 33.Kh1 Kg7 34.Bxc5 Bxc5 35.Qxc5 Qxf4 36.Rg1 Rd4 ]

**33.Kf2 Qg6** ...h4 would now be deadly.
[ 33...Ra3 simplifies 34.Rc3 Rxc3 35.Qxc3 Qe4 ]

**34.g3** The position is equal. **34...Qf5 35.Rb1! Ra3 36.Rb3 Rxb3**
[ 36...Ra2+ seems wilder. 37.Kg1 Qc8 38.e6 Qxe6 39.Rb8+ Kh7 ]

**37.Qxb3 Qxh3** Endgame. KQB-KQB **38.Qb8+ Kh7**

(Diagram)



...Qh2+ is the strong threat. **39.Qc7 Qe6 40.Qxa5 h4 41.gxh4 Bxh4+ 42.Ke2 Qc4+ 43.Kd2 Qa2+ 44.Kd1 Qb1+ 45.Ke2 c4 46.Qc3** Repels Qd3+ **46...Qe4 47.Kd1** aiming for Qc2. **47...Qf3+ 48.Kc1 Bg3 49.Qd2**
[ 49.Kb2 simplifies Bxf4 50.Bxf4 Qxf4 51.a5 ]

**49...c3 50.Qd4 Be1** And now ...Qe2 would win. **51.Qd3+ g6 52.Kc2 Qg2+ 53.Kd1**
[ Not 53.Kb3? Qb2+ 54.Kc4 c2-+ *( 54...Qa2+ 55.Kb5∓ )*]

**53...Qh1** Threatens to win with ...Bd2+. **54.Kc2** Active counter play! **54...Qc6 55.Kd1 Bg3**
[ 55...Qxa4+? is the wrong capture. 56.Kxe1 Qa1+ 57.Ke2+- ]

**56.Qd4 Qf3+ 57.Kc2 Be1 58.Qd3** Inhibits Qe2+. **58...Qc6 59.Kd1 Bg3**
[ 59...Qxa4+? too greedy. 60.Kxe1 Qb4 61.Bc1+- ]

**60.Qd4 Qf3+ 61.Kc2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Sarana,Alexey** **2655**
■ **Korobov,Anton** **2679**
FIDE Chess.com Grand Swiss (6)
*[Nigel Davies,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
Leitao,Rafael: 'Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.a3 Rb8**

[ 10...Na5 11.Qc2 Bb7 12.Rd1 Qd7 13.Nc3 Bc6 14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) ]

**11.Qc2 0-0 12.h4N** White almost always plays h2-h4 when Black castles short, but the exact timing has varied.

[Several games has seen 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 and then 14.h4! , for example Nd5 *( 14...Qc8 15.Ng5 g6 16.h5 c5 17.Nxh7 cxd4 18.Rxd4 Nb3 19.Rg4 Nd5 20.hxg6 f5 21.exf6 Nxe3 22.fxe3 Qc5 23.Nxf8 Qxe3 24.f7+ Kg7 25.Rh7+ Kf6 26.Nd7#* Vidit,S (2727)-Garriga Cazorla,P (2472) chess.com (Int.-blitz) 154/(142) 2022 *)* 15.Bd2! *( 15.Ng5 g6* Threatens to win with ...Nxe3. *16.Bc1* was Kuljasevic,D (2553)-Molenda,M (2406) Norway Chess op Stavanger 2023, and now Black should have cracked open the centre with. With the idea Nce4. *c5!* . This follows the rule that a flank attack is usually best met by a counterblow in the centre, though sometimes it takes nerves of steel to do so.*)* 15...Nb3! 16.Bxc4 Nxd2 17.Qxd2 and Black was struggling to find sufficient compensation in Gumularz,S (2513)-Warakomski,T (2534) POL-ch Lotto Loser 79th Kruszwica 2022. ]

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Na5∓ ]

**12...h6** 0.59/23 The engines don't like this but I find Korobov's treatment interesting, he wants to avoid creating more weaknesses or move his knight from its centralized post on c6.

[ In the game Vidit,S (2726) -Bluebaum,M (2670) Opera Euro Rapid Prelim chess24.com INT 2021, Black played 12...f5 instead, though White stood well after 13.exf6 gxf6 0.94/23 *( 13...Bxf6⩲* 0.33/23 *14.Qe4 Na5 )* 14.Nc3 Rf7 15.Rd1 , once again because of Black's multiple pawn weaknesses. ]

[ 12...Na5= 0.13/23 deserves consideration. ]

**13.Rd1**

[ 13.Bxc4 Nxc4 14.Qxc4 Na5∓ ]

**13...Ba6** 0.99/19

[ 13...Na5⩲ 0.58/20 ]

**14.Nc3±** White has more active pieces. **14...Nd5 15.Bc1** 0.19/25

[Better is 15.Rh3± 0.81/22 ]

**15...Nxc3** 0.60/23

[ 15...Na5= 0.19/25 ]

**16.bxc3⩲ Qd5!** Wards off Qe4 **17.Rh3 f5 18.exf6**

[The engines initially like 18.Rg3 , but how does White proceed after Kh7 19.Qd2! And now Rxg7+! would win. Rf7 ? ]

**18...Rxf6 19.Kf1**

[ 19.g4!? ]

**19...Rb3** 1.02/25 A risky move because of the rook's vulnerability to tactics.

[ 19...Bb7 20.Kg1 Bd6 would have been safer and about equal. ]

[ 19...Bb7= 0.24/22 remains equal. ]

**20.Kg1** 0.50/25

[ 20.g4!± 1.02/25 Black must now prevent Ng5! Bb5 *( 20...Bxa3 21.Ng5± )* 21.Ng5 ]

**20...Bd6 21.a4 Bb7 22.Bf1 Ba8 23.Re1**

[ 23.Nd2? Nb4-+ ]

**23...Bb7 24.Rd1**

[ 24.Nd2 Nxd4 25.Qe4 *( 25.cxd4? Rxh3 26.Ne4 Bh2+ 27.Kh1 Bg3+ 28.Kg1 Qxe4-+ )* 25...Qxe4 26.Nxe4 Bxe4 27.Rxe4 Rb1± ]

**24...Ba8 25.Be3**

[Wrong is 25.Nd2? Nb4-+ ]

**25...Qa5?** 3.16/22 Missing a tactical shot.

[Black should try 25...Ra3⩲ 0.52/23 ]

**26.Rc1?** 0.95/20 Returning the compliment.

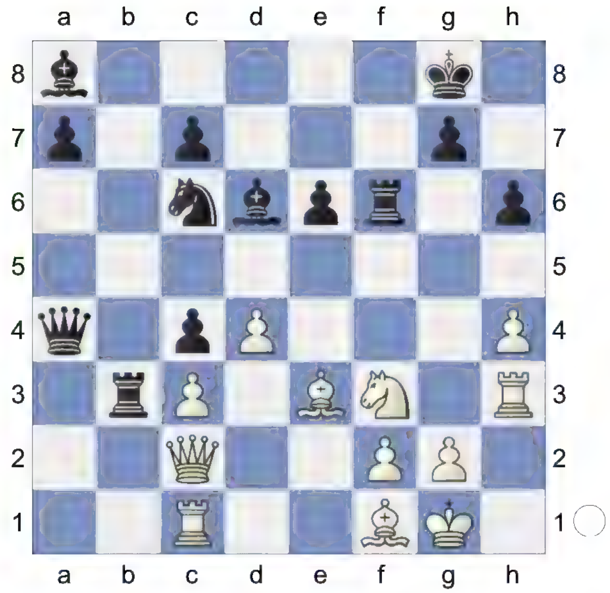
[ 26.Ng5! would have been devastating, for example hxg5 27.hxg5 Qf5 *(Or 27...Rf5?* 4.69/19 27...Qf5 2.80 *28.Bxc4* etc. *)* 28.Qxf5! Rxf5 29.Bxc4 threatens the rook on b3 and a fork with Bxe6+. ]

[ 26.Ng5!+- 3.16/22 hxg5 27.hxg5 ]

**26...Qxa4?** 3.18/21

[ 26...Ne7± 0.95/20 was worth a try. ]

(Diagram)



Presenting White with his chin, once again. **27.Nd2?** 0.67/21 Again White misses it, making me wonder if there was mutual time shortage at this point.

[ 27.Ng5! is just as devastating as on the previous move, for example hxg5 28.hxg5 Rf5 Hoping for ...Ne7. 29.Qe4 Kf7 4.33/20 *( ⌓29...Nd8* 2.89/20 *30.Qxa8 Rb7 )* 30.g6++- Kf6 31.d5 exd5 32.Qe8 is winning for White. Admittedly this tactical justification is way more complicated than after 26.Ng5, which might explain why it was rejected. I will not comment on the remaining moves as they might have been played in serious time trouble, but it's worth noting how rich and complex struggles are the norm in this variation. ]

[Only move: 27.Ng5!+- 3.18/21 hxg5 28.hxg5 ]

**27...Na5! 28.Ne4! Bxe4 29.Qxe4 Qb5! 30.g4! Qb7 31.Bg2** 0.25/21

[ 31.Qxb7± 0.74/22 Rxb7 32.Ra1 ]

**31...Qxe4= 32.Bxe4 Rb5** 1.14/21

[ 32...Bf4= 0.25/24 ]

**33.g5± Rf7 34.Ra1 Bf4 35.Bg6** 0.15/19

[ 35.g6!⩲ 0.64/22 Rf6 36.Rf3 Bxe3 37.fxe3 *( 37.Rxe3 Kf8= )*]

**35...Rf8!=** The position is equal. **36.gxh6 gxh6 37.Rf3 Bxe3 38.Rxe3 Rf6 39.h5** White has compensation. **39...Nc6** Dodges Re5 **40.Be4 Ra5 41.Rb1 Ne7 42.Rb7 Rg5+ 43.Kf1 Nd5 44.Bxd5**

**exd5 45.Rxc7 Rf7 46.Re8+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.24 (precise)
½-½

**D24**

☐ **Tomashevsky,Evgeny 2702**
■ **Alekseenko,Kirill 2650**
TCh-TUR Super League 2019 (7.3)
*[Flear,Glenn, Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6**

[The official D24 move order is 1...d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e4 with transposition. Most of the time however the D37 move order (i.e. that of the main game) is employed. ]

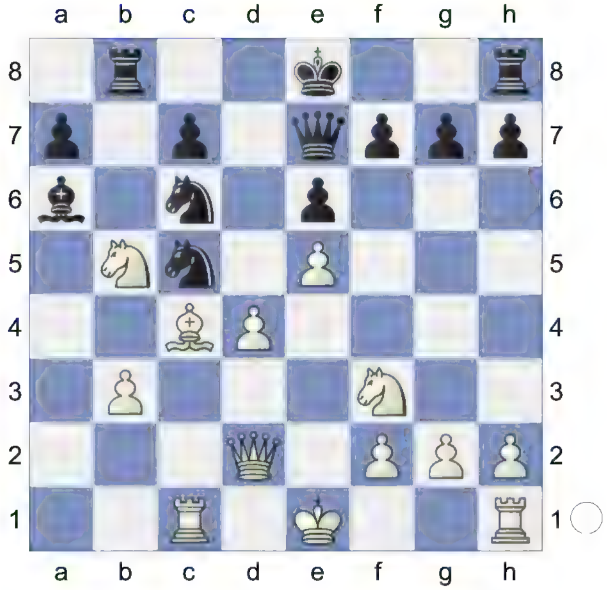
**2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.a4!**

A rare move that seems to surprise Black. It also seems quite promising as using the a-pawn to support the b5-knight and eventually advance with a4-a5 gives the opponent quite a few practical problems to solve. White is slightly better.

[ Although Black's hybrid QGA/Vienna is a fairly recent invention, on ChessPublishing, Milos Pavlovic has already analyzed Mamedyarov, S - Caruana, F Saint Louis 2018, which varied with 8.Be2 (see the archives for details). Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗g5 c6 393 (2539) TCh-RUS Sochi RUS 2005 ]

[Another option for White is 8.Bg5 e.g. Be7 9.Qd2

**A)** nor did 9...Nc6 solve all his problems: 10.Rc1 Ba6 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.a4! Nxa4 13.Bxc4 Nd6+! is the strong threat. Rb8 1.44/20 ( *13...0-0!± 0.48/22* ) 14.b3!± Nc5? 3.07/21 ( *14...Nb6± 1.39/21* is a better defense. )



15.Nd6+!+- cxd6 16.dxc5 Stupak, K - Cornette, M Rochefort 2017, and Black was already in trouble;

**B)** 9...0-0 10.Be2 -0.12/22 ( *⌓10.Bxe7* 0.27/20 *Qxe7 11.b3* ) 10...Bb7 0.35/23 ( *10...Bxg5!=* -0.12/22 is superior. *11.Nxg5 Bb7* ) 11.0-0 -0.13/20 ( *11.h4±* 0.35/23 is more appropriate.) 11...Bxg5= 12.Nxg5 h6 13.Nf3

**B1)** 13...Qd7!? 14.a4 a5 0.30/18 ( *⌓14...Bxf3* -0.18/21 *15.Bxf3 Nc6* ) 15.Rfc1= Bd5 is plausible, but it's still harder for Black to handle;

**B2)** 13...Qd7= -0.06/22 14.a4 a5;

**B3)** 13...N8d7 0.38/21 14.Rac1± Rb8 15.Rfd1± Sarana, A - Yu

Yangyi, St.Petersburg Blitz 2018, with a nice-looking set-up. ]

**8...Nc6N**

[ A couple of other moves have been tried, but maybe White can keep a pull in both cases: 8...a6 9.Nc3 ( *9.Na3!?* ) 9...a5 10.Be2 Be7 11.Be3 Nc6 12.0-0 Bb7 0.57/23 ( *12...0-0=* 0.21/22 ) 13.Qb1 ( despite the loss of tempo, perhaps simply *13.Nb5±* ) 13...Nb4 14.Rc1 0-0 15.Ne4 h6!∞ Damljanovic, B - Gorodetzky, D Novi Sad 2019, with double-edged play. Wards off Neg5 ]

[ 8...Ba6 9.Be2 Nc6 10.b3?! -0.06/20 ( I would take White after the natural *10.0-0±*; White should try *10.0-0±* 0.61/21 ) 10...Bb4+= 11.Kf1 -0.36/22 ( *11.Bd2=* 0.03/23 ) 11...c3 0.30/20 ( *11...cxb3∓* -0.36/22 *12.Qxb3 0-0* ) 12.Nxc7+!= Qxc7 13.Bxa6 Rd8 14.Bd3 Be7 15.h4 Gouloutis, N - Mastrovasilis, A Kavala 2017, with a wild-looking position which should be fine for Black. ]

[ 8...Qd7 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 ( *10.a5 Nxa5 11.Rxa5 Bb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxa5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ) 10...Na5 Quickstarter Guide-Vienna – Main Line 5.e4 #2 11.Ng5 h6 12.Ne4 Bb7 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.dxc5 Nd5 15.Ra3 a6 16.Nd4 Ne7 17.Qd2 Qd5 18.Rg3 Qxc5 19.b4 cxb3 20.Ba3 Qxa3 21.Qxa5 Bd5 22.Rxg7 c5 23.Bh5 cxd4 24.Rxf7 Kd7 25.Bg4 Kc6 (45) Model Games-Carlsen,M ]

**9.a5! Ba6 10.Na3 Bb4+**

[ I think that Black should play the risky-looking 10...Nxa5 0.97/25 10...Nd5 0.47 11.Nb1! 0.27/20 ( *11.Nc2 Qd5* White must now prevent ...Bb7. *12.Bd2 c3* is less clear; White should play *11.Nc2±* 0.97/25 ) 11...Qd5!= Threatens to win with ...Bb7. 12.Bd2 Qe4+! 13.Be2 c3! 14.Nxc3 Bxe2! 15.Qxe2 ( *15.Nxe2 Nac4 16.Bc3 Be7* looks acceptable for the second player ) 15...Qxe2+ 16.Kxe2 Nb3 and apart from the inconvenience of a slightly inferior structure, Black is more or less OK. ]

**11.Bd2 c3** 1.93/22 Alekseenko was relying on the complications that follow from this move. It seems that they aren't satisfactory for Black, but they would have been difficult to fully work out in a practical game.

[ Even so, it's hard to get enthusiastic about 11...Nd5 12.Bxc4 Bxc4 13.Nxc4± with a safe edge for White. ]

[ 11...Nd5± 0.50/24 ]

**12.bxc3+-**

[ 12.Bxc3 Bxf1 13.axb6 ( *13.Rxf1 Bxa5 14.Bxa5 Nxa5=; 13.Kxf1 Bxa5 14.Bxa5 Nxa5±* ) 13...Bxa3 ( *13...Bxg2 14.Rg1* )]

**12...Bxf1 13.axb6**

[ 13.Rxf1 Bxa3 ( *13...Bxa5?! 14.Ke2±* ) 14.axb6 ( *14.Rxa3 Nc4∓* ) 14...axb6= ]

**13...Bxg2**

[ 13...axb6 is well met by 14.cxb4 (count the pieces!). ]

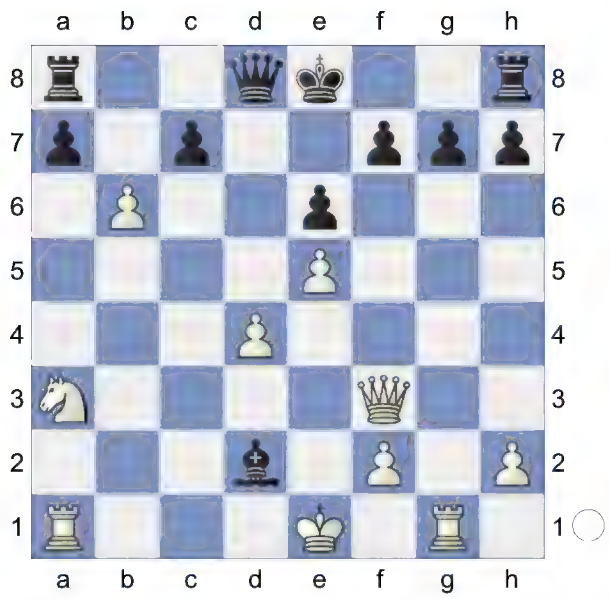
**14.Rg1 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nxd4**

[ 15...Bxa3? 6.48/21 15...Nxd4 1.83 16.Qxc6++- ]

**16.Qe4** And now b7 would win. Pin

[At first the engines prefer 16.cxd4 but Black seems to be fine, mainly because there is a perpetual check option beyond the silicon horizon: Bxd2+

(Diagram)



17.Kxd2 0.94/20 *( 17.Ke2!+- 2.05/23 axb6 18.Rxg7 )* 17...Qxd4+± 18.Ke2 0.00/27 *( 18.Kc2± 0.93/25 Qc5+ 19.Kb3 Qxb6+ 20.Ka2 )* 18...Qxe5+= 19.Kf1! Qxa1+ 20.Kg2 Qe5! aiming for ...0-0. 21.Qxa8+ Ke7 22.Qxh8 Qg5+!= ]

**16...axb6**

[But not 16...Nb3? 17.Rd1 Qd5 18.Qxd5 *( 18.Qxb4 Nxd2 19.Qa4+ c6+- )* 18...exd5 19.b7+- *( 19.cxb4 axb6 20.Nb5 Kd7+- )*]

**17.cxb4±** Black only has two pawns for the piece, but what's worse is that he can't be sure about his king safety. Hoping for Bc3! **17...Qd5** One way of securing his king! **18.Qxd5 exd5 19.Rg3** Against Nf3+

[ 19.Rxg7? 0.01/18 19.Rg3 2.08 is bad because of Rxa3! ]

[And not 19.Rxg7 Rxa3 20.Rxa3 Nc2+ 21.Ke2 Nxa3= ]

**19...0-0 20.Rc1 Ne6 21.Rc6!** It's best not to allow ...c5. Now the pawns stay put and come under pressure. **21...Ra4 22.Rd3 Rd8 23.Nb5 Ra1+ 24.Ke2 Ra2 25.Kf3 Rd7 26.Nd4 Re7 27.Nf5 Rd7 28.Nd4 Re7 29.Nxe6** It's a shame to improve Black's structure, but on the other hand c7 is now harder to defend. **29...fxe6 30.Be3 Kf7 31.Rdc3 Ra7** Now the idea is that (if the opponent can't do very much) to make as many improvements as possible before finding a breakthrough. **32.Bg5 Rd7 33.Kg4 h6 34.Rf3+ Kg8 35.Bd2 Ra2 36.Rd3 Kf7** 4.61/22

[ ⌓36...Re7 3.11/18 37.f4 g6 ]

**37.h4 Re7 38.f4 Ke8 39.Bc1 Ra4** 5.01/21

[ 39...Rg2+ 3.34/18 was worth a try. 40.Kf3 Rh2 ]

**40.Bd2 Kd7**

[ I can't see any real hope after 40...Kf7? 5.70/19 40...Ra1 3.40 41.f5 exf5+ 42.Kxf5+- ]

**41.Rdc3** The time control has been reached and White should be able to find a key to unlock Black's defences. However it looks odd that Alekseenko resigned here, so either a few moves are missing or he has great respect for Tomashevsky's technique (or both!). I think that White would aim to bring his king to h5 and onto g6 if possible. Black did not feel at home in the position after the opening.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.21 (precise) /Black=0.38

[After 41.Rdc3 Black can only wait for his coming doom e.g. Kd8 *( 41...Ra7 42.Kh5 )* 42.Rc2 Ra1 *( 42...g6 43.h5! )* 43.Be3! Against Rg1+ Ra7 44.Kh5 Kd7 45.Kg6 Kd8 46.h5 Ke8 47.Bf2 with Bf4 in mind. ]

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2843**
■ **Wojtaszek,Radoslaw** **2744**
Gashimov Memorial 5th (5) 23.04.2018
*[Nielsen,Peter, MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

The tournament in general, but for Magnus especially had a very quiet start with Topalov's win over Navara being the only deceisive game. The pairings gave Magnus 3 Blacks vs. the Azeri players not leaving much scope for creativity, however in round 5 things were about to change: **1.d4** Quintiliano,Renato Cabrilo,Goran Quintiliano,R **1...Nf6** Radek stays loyal to his compratiot inviting his favourite Najdorf variation. **2.c4** Quintiliano, Renato: 'Seemingly, the World Champion usually has been avoided theoretical discussions in his games against Polish number-1 Wojtaszek; this makes their encounters highly original and interesting.' **2...e6** Najdorf players have to use this move order as e.g. **3.Nf3** Cabrilo,Goran: '!?' Quintiliano, Renato: '!?' **3...d5** **4.Nc3** A nice and fitting touch, as this move order vs. the Sicilian was favoured by Vugar Gashimov. **4...dxc4** Quintiliano,Renato: 'There was some suspicion that Carlsen was playing homage to the player who gives the tournament its name, the brilliant GM Vugar Gashimov. This is because the creative Azeri GM used to play this different move order, although here Carlsen also deviates from Gashimov's move, 5. ♗b5.' **5.e4!?** Magnus unleashes a rare and original concept, completely novel at top level. During Wijk Aan Zee 2017 I received an email from Greek IM Ioannis Simeonidis suggesting this setup as an interesting anti-Najdorf concept and offered it to Magnus to test his concept! At first it reminded me of Greek hubris. After all how likely is it that you can come up with a meaningful and new setup at move 5 in one of the most tested openings historically in chess? GM, Khenkin, the commentator at the event formulated it with classic Soviet iron chess logic: "Chess-wisdom suggests only moving each piece once in the opening, especially the queen, however the World Champion seem to have his own rules". First sight however is deceptive: White has an interesting concept in mind, and very similarly to Fischer-Random chess the players now have to adapt to problems completely untested previously in practice. Quintiliano,Renato: 'The start of an original plan.' **5...Bb4** Logical and common-sense, but Ofitserian took a much more concrete approach when facing Paravyan in the Russian Junior championship 4 days later harassing the white queen with **6.Bxc4** Quintiliano,Renato: 'N' Quintiliano,Renato: 'Preparing to play with 0-0-0 and advance the kingside pawns in the future. The difficult task for Black is that, among many options, it is not easy to realise which is the best setup against White's plan.' **6...Nxe4** On the same day in the Budapest Spring Open but 3 hours later due to the time difference, Kotronias faced **7.0-0!** **Nf6** Again typical Sicilian style. Quintiliano, Renato: 'In this really new position, Wojtaszek plays according to natural Sicilian plans.' **8.Qe2** White has compensation. White is slightly better.

[ 8.Qa4+ feels hotter. Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8

10.d5 ]

**8...0-0** Cabrilo,Goran: 'N' **9.Bg5** The position reminds one of a Rauzer, however the white bishop being on b2 and the knight on g1 instead of d4! At first this sounds considerably more passive from whites perspective, but the bishop on b2 not only attacks in the long diagonal but also provides additional safety for the white king. While a knight on d4 would just be exchanged now on g1 it can consider various routes of attack. **9...h6?!** Cabrilo,Goran: '[✕Ke8]' Preventing g4 makes perfect sense, but Quintiliano,Renato: 'This advance is going to become a problem.' **10.Bh4** Till this move, the general concept was mapped out in preparation, but here the World Champion demonstrates his level, adopting to the specifics of the position excellently. The g5-square very rarely being a relevant square for a white knight in the Scheveningen style Sicilian is of no importance. Like in chess 960 what matters is adapting to the new situation, and the combination of Black's last move weakening the g5-square and White's knight being on g1 prompted this unusual approach. Quintiliano, Renato: 'Carlsen immediately realizes how to explore Black's last move: The knight will be very annoying on g5.' **10...Be7** **11.Rad1** With the idea d5. **11...Nc6N** Again logical and typical, however for this specific position just not very relevant.

[ 11...Nbd7 12.Rfe1+- ( *12.Ne5 Nb6 13.Bd3 Nfd5 14.Bg3 Bd7 15.Ne4 Ba4 16.Rc1 Nd7 17.b3 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bc6 19.Rfd1 a5 20.a4 Qe8 21.h4 Rd8 22.h5 Nb4 23.Bb1 Kh8 24.Bf4 Rg8 25.Bd2 Rd5 26.Bxb4 axb4* (38) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 12) 12...Nb6 13.Bb3→ Black should prevent d5! Nfd5 14.Bxe7-+ ( *14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Bxh4 16.Bb3 Bf6 17.Qe4 a5* Model Game For White-De Vries,E Menorca op 2nd 2023) 14...Nxe7 Quintiliano,Renato: 'would leave the king on a more exposed square to checks' 15.Qd3 -0.32/22 ( *15.Bc2=* 0.06/24 ) 15...c6!∓ was Black's best chance to minimise the damage, but in time pressure Radek finally goes astray. 16.Bc2 Cabrilo,Goran f5 0.16/23 ( *16...g6!∓* -0.32/22 is more appropriate. )]

**12.Rfe1 Nd5 13.Bxd5 Bxh4 14.Bxc6** Quintiliano,Renato: ' ±'Quintiliano, Renato: 'It seems already hard to offer some good advice for Black, his position looks just unpleasant.'

[ 14.Bb3→ d5 is the strong threat. Be7 Quintiliano,Renato 15.d5 exd5 16.Nxd5 Bd6 17.Qd3+- Against Bf5 Bg4! Quintiliano,Renato 18.Bc2+- f5! 19.h3 Cabrilo,Goran: ' ±'Black is passive without counterplay while f5 and g5 follow for White with an overwhelming edge. ( *19.Nxc7 Qxc7!* and Black's defence is still difficult *20.Qxd6? Qxd6! 21.Rxd6* White wants to play Nh4. *Rad8* ) 19...Bxf3! Quintiliano,Renato 20.Qxf3 aiming for Ne3! Qg5 21.Qb3 Kh8 22.Qxb7 Ne5 White must now prevent ...Rab8. 23.Qb3! ]

**14...bxc6** **15.Qc4!** While White's two last moves might appear unimpressive, ♗e2 almost feeling passive, looks are again deceptive. White quietly finishes his development in essence claiming he can improve his position meaningfully before the eventual confrontation, while Black cannot. Black's position is much worse than it looks. Normally ... ♘b4 and ... ♕a5 would create counterplay, exchange sacrifices on c3 being part of the equation, but with the white bishop being on b2 such action by Black would be completely pointless, and ... ♘b4 simply being answered by a white a3. Especially the knight at c6 seems misplaced blocking both the bishop on b7 and the rook on c8. The relevant question would be, why did Black put it there? But who could resist free development harassing the opponent's queen at move 4? Quintiliano,Renato: 'White has developed all his pieces, and is ready to take active actions. As usual, Magnus makes it seem easy.'

[ 15.Nxh4 Qxh4 16.Qe5 Qe7 17.Qa5 Cabrilo,Goran ]

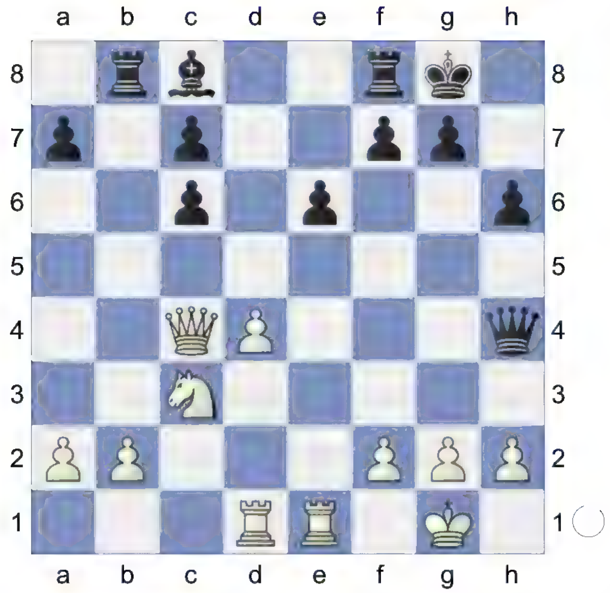
**15...Rb8** 0.26/23 Cabrilo,Goran: '?!'

[ ⌓15...Be7 -0.15/20 ]

**16.Nxh4**

[ 16.Qxc6? Bb7 *( 16...Rxb2 17.Nxh4 Bb7 18.Qc5= )* 17.Qc4 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Qg5+ *( 18...Rxb2 19.Re2∓ )* 19.Kf1 Qf5∓ *( 19...Rxb2 20.Re2∓ )*]

**16...Qxh4** Cabrilo,Goran: 'Diagram



'. The position is equal. **17.b3**

At the press conference Magnus explained that he saw the indeed crushing 17. ♘d5! but thought his position so dominating that sacrifices were not even neccesary. Quintiliano, Renato: 'Carlsen tried to play practical chess, as usual, but it was time for concrete measures.' **17...Rd8**

[ 17...Qe7 mates. 18.Qxc6 Quintiliano,Renato Bb7 19.Qa4 Qg5 20.d5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 exd5 ]

**18.Qxc6 Bb7 19.Qc5** Quintiliano, Renato: 'Again practical.' **19...Qg5 20.Qxg5** Quintiliano,Renato: '?' A strange coincidence. Magnus' only inaccuracy in the game was g4; unfortunately it was possible to play twice! Unlike move 17 here simplicity was in order, figthing for the open file with Quintiliano,Renato: 'But this allows Black to get chances and practically loses all the advantage.' **20...hxg5** Quintiliano,Renato: ' ⇄ !' Quintiliano, Renato: 'Suddenly, White's task doesn't seems so simple anymore.' **21.h3** Quintiliano,Renato: '!'Quintiliano,Renato: 'Preventing both ... ♘f3 and ... ♘xb3.' **21...Bd5** Cabrilo,Goran: '!' **22.Re5! f6** Cabrilo,Goran: '!' **23.Nxd5** Despite the exchanges of minor pieces, the difference in king safety still gives White the much more pleasant position.

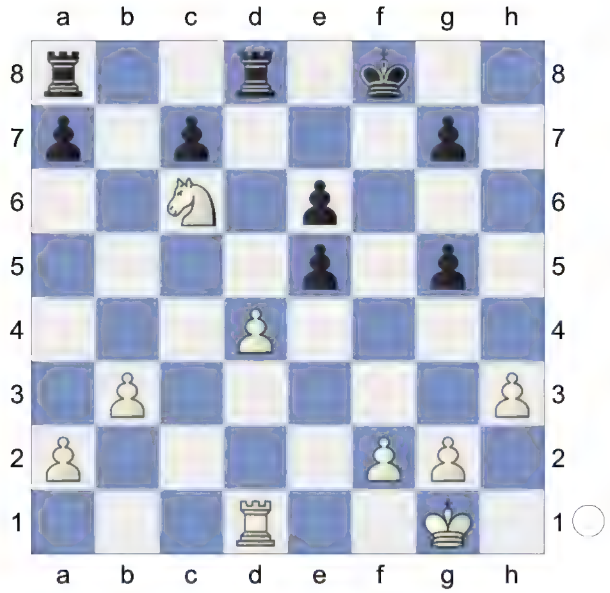
[ 23.Re2 ]

[ 23.Re2 simplifies a5 24.Nxd5 Rxd5 25.Rc1 ]

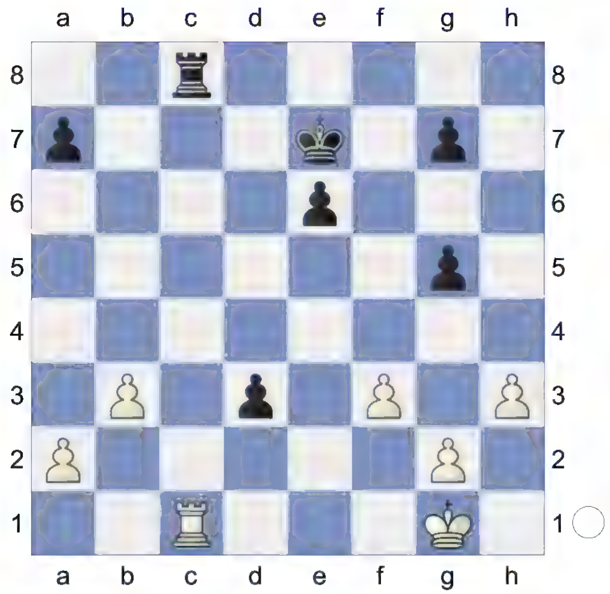
**23...fxe5=** Endgame. KRR-KRN **24.Ne7+ Kf8 25.Nc6 Ra8** Cabrilo,Goran: '?!' Cabrilo,Goran: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

' Quintiliano,Renato: '?!'Allows a tactical



blow, but after **26.Nxd8** Quintiliano, Renato: 'Forcing some open lines towards the opponent's king.' **26...Rxd8** KR-KR **27.Rc1 exd4** Cabrilo,Goran: '?' Quintiliano,Renato: '?'Quintiliano, Renato: 'Losing on the spot, although Black's position was probably already lost.' **28.Rxc7 d3** Hoping for ...d2. **29.Rc1!** Quintiliano,Renato: '+-' **29...Ke7 30.f3!** And now Kf2 would win. **30...Rc8**



Promotion **31.Rd1** And with 32.♖xh1 following next, Black being a piece down resigned. Magnus' shift of pace not only lasted to the upcoming free day's soccer tournament scoring all 6 six goals for the winning team, but also for the remainder of the tournament with crucial wins over first the leader Topalov and then with the black pieces against Anish Giri eventually securing overall victory.

[ 31.Rxc8? perishes. d2 32.Rc7+ ( *32.Rd8? Kxd8 33.Kh2 d1Q-+* ) 32...Ke8 33.Rxa7 ( *33.Rc8+? Kd7-+* ) 33...d1Q+ ( *33...d1B? 34.Rxg7 Bc2 35.Rxg5+-* ) 34.Kh2 Qd5-+ ]

If **31...Rc2** then **32.Rxd3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless) . Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Ju,Wenjun** **2564**

■ **Lei,Tingjie** **2554**

World-ch (Women) (4) 09.07.2023

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3** 10.Qd2 might become the main line.10.Dd2 könnte zur Hauptfortsetzung werden. **10...0-0 11.Nc3**

[ 11.a4 Na5 12.Nd2 Bb7 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Rfc1 Rfc8 15.Rd1 h6 16.Na3 Bd5 17.Ndxc4 Naxc4 18.Nxc4 Qc6 19.Rdc1 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxg2 21.Bf1 Qxc2 22.Rxc2 Be4 23.Rc3 Rab8 24.Ba6 Bb7 25.Bd3 Bb4 ↑-↑ (134) 17.♘d2 ♖e6 18.a4 (2507)-Uzhva,A (2610) 42/259 Nikea 1986 (10.1) ]

**11...Rb8N**

[ 11...Bb7

**A)** 12.Qb1 Rb8 13.Ne4 *( 13.Qe4 Nd5 14.Bxc4 Ncb4 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 16.Nxd5 Qxd5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 13...Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6 25.h4 h5 26.g3 Qb5 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4.h3 ♘f6 5.♘f3 00 6.♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Qa4+ Qd7 (5);

**B)** 12.Na4 Ba6 13.Rc1 Nb4 14.a3 *( 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.dxc5 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 N6d5 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Rxc4 Rfb8 19.a3 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Nd5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 14...Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Nd2 Rb8 17.Nc5 Bxc5 18.Rxc5 Nd5 19.b4 f5 20.exf6 Qxf6 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ]

**12.b3 cxb3 13.axb3 Bb7 14.Qb1 Nb4 15.Ne4 h6N**

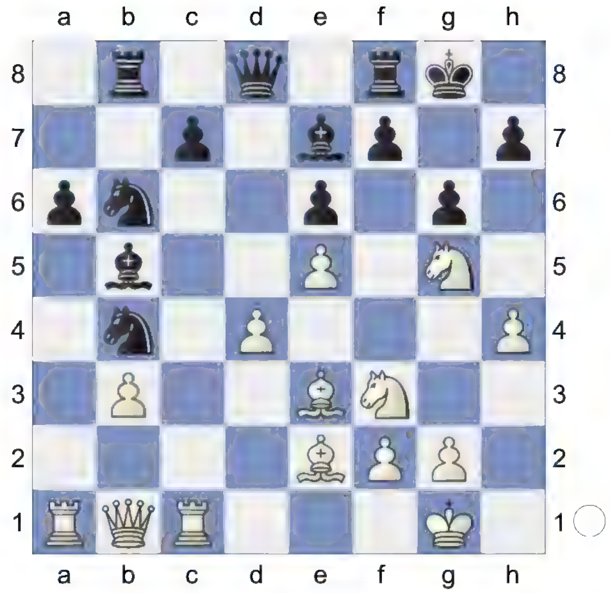
[Vorgänger: 15...a6 16.Neg5 g6! 17.Rc1 Bc6 18.h4 Bb5 1.71/22 (Black should try *18...Bxf3!±* 0.58/18 *19.Bxf3 Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Qxd4* )

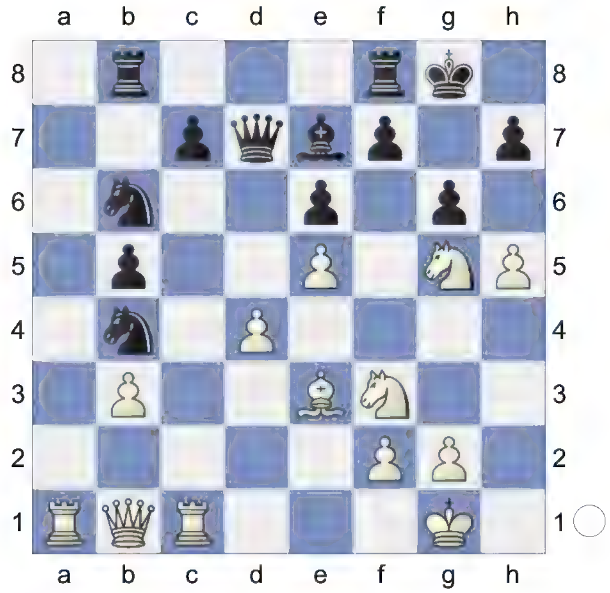
(Diagram)

19.Bxb5!+- axb5 20.h5! Strongly threatening hxg6. Qd7

(Diagram)

21.Qe4 0.70/18 *( 21.Ne4!±* 1.41/21 *)* 21...N4d5? 2.22/19 Inhibits . 1-0 Davtyan,A (2460)-Azarov,S (2604) Cattolica Primavera op 2022 (5) *( 21...h6±* 0.70/18 *)*]





**16.Rxa7 N6d5 17.Bd2 Nc6 18.Ra1 Ndb4 19.Be3 Nd5 20.Bc1 Ra8 21.Rd1 Rxa1 22.Qxa1 Ncb4 23.Nc5 Bc6 24.Bd2 Qb8 25.Qa5** 0.05/24

[ 25.Qc1± 0.45/22 ]

**25...Rd8 26.Rc1** White wants to play Rc4. **26...Qb6 27.Qxb6 cxb6 28.Na6** Nxb4 would now be deadly. **28...Bb7 29.Nc7 g5 30.h3 Nf4 31.Bxf4 gxf4 32.Nb5 Bc6 33.Kf1 Kf8 34.Rd1 Ra8 35.Nc3 Na2 36.Nxa2 Rxa2 37.Ne1**

**Rb2 38.Nd3 Rxb3 39.Nxf4 Ba3 40.d5 exd5 41.Nxd5 Bc5 42.Nf6 Rb2 43.f4 Rb4 44.g3 Rb3 45.Nd7+ Bxd7 46.Rxd7 Rxg3=** Endgame. KRB-KRB **47.Bg4 Re3 48.Kg2 Be7 49.Rb7 f6 50.e6** 0.04/23

[ 50.Bh5!± 0.43/22 fxe5 51.f5 ]

**50...h5 51.Bf5 h4 52.Bg4 Rg3+ 53.Kf2 Bc5+ 54.Kf1 Be7! 55.Ke2 Rb3 56.f5 b5** The position is equal. **57.Kd2 b4 58.Rb8+ Kg7 59.Re8**

[ 59.Rb7!? Kf8□ 60.Rb8+ Kg7 61.Re8= ]

**59...Bd6 60.Rd8 Be7 61.Re8**

[ 61.Rd7!? Kf8□ 62.Rb7= ]

**61...Bd6 62.Rd8 Be7! 63.Re8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D39**

☐ **Koneru,Humpy** **2567**
■ **Lagno,Kateryna** **2552**
Global Chess League rapid (6.4) 26.6.23
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

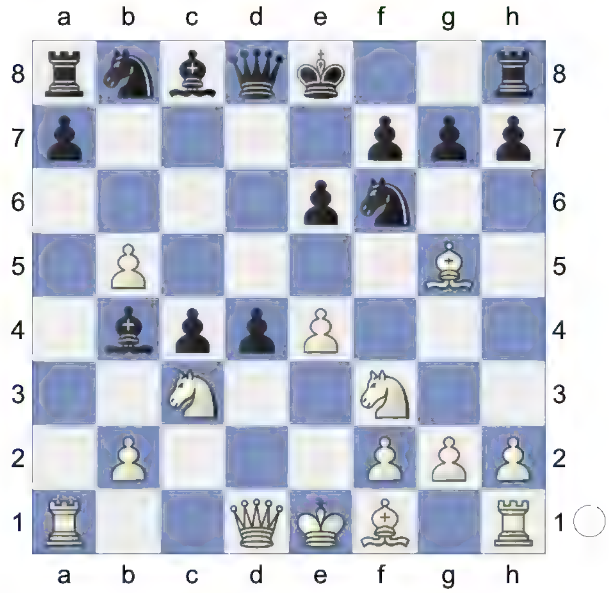
A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5 7.a4** 7.a4 is better than 7.e5. 7.a4 ist besser als 7.e5. **7...c5 8.axb5** Hoping for e5.

[ 8.e5 is interesting. cxd4 9.Nxd4 Qd5 10.Be2 ]

**8...cxd4**



Pin **9.Bxf6** White is slightly better.

[Of course not 9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxe4∓ ( *10...Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Nxe4 12.Be3±* )]

[ 9.Nxd4 feels hotter. h6 10.Be3 Nxe4 11.Qa4 ]

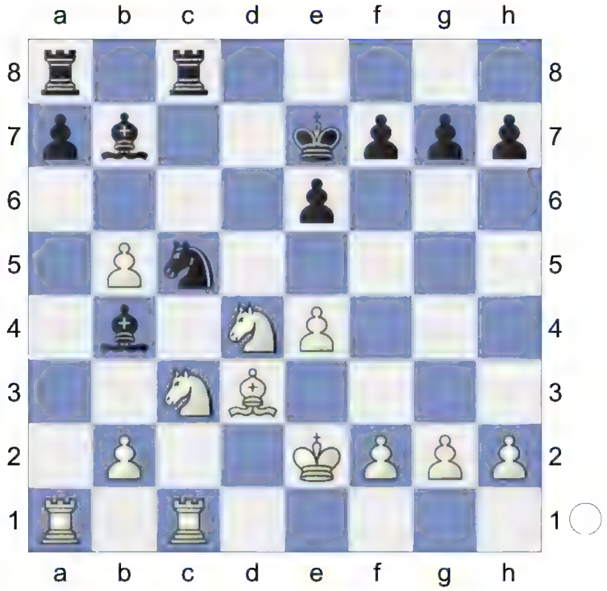
**9...Qxf6 10.Qxd4 Qxd4 11.Nxd4 Bb7**

**12.Bxc4 Ke7** Black is weak on the light squares

[Much weaker is 12...Bxc3+?! 13.bxc3 Bxe4 14.0-0± ]

**13.Ke2 Nd7N**

[Predecessor: 13...Rc8 14.Bd3! Nd7 15.Rhc1 Nc5 1.21/20 ( Black should try *15...g5±* 0.44/20 )



16.f3 0.42/17 ( *16.Na2!±* 1.21/20 *Nxd3 17.Kxd3* ) 16...Rd8± 17.Na4 Nxd3 1.35/20 ( *17...Nxa4!=* 0.29/26 *18.Rxa4 Rxd4 19.Rc7+ Kf6 20.Rxb7 Rad8* ) 18.Kxd3± Rac8 Inhibits Rc7+. ...e5 would now be deadly. 19.Rc4 Bd6 1-0 Semov,D (2368)-Spasov,S (2271) BUL-ch44 email 2009 ]

**14.Nc6+ Bxc6 15.bxc6 Ne5 16.Bb5** aiming for f4. **16...a6 17.Rxa6** 0.00/23

[Reject 17.Bxa6 Nxc6 18.Bb7 Nd4+ 19.Kd3 Rab8 20.Kxd4 Rxb7= ]

[ 17.f4!± 0.60/22 ]

**17...Rxa6=** The position is equal.

**18.Bxa6** c7 is the strong threat.

**18...Nxc6 19.Rd1 Rb8 20.Rd2 g5 21.h3 h5** Black has compensation. **22.Kf1 Ne5 23.Be2 h4 24.g3 Ba5 25.Kg2 Rb3 26.Rc2 hxg3 27.fxg3 Kf6 28.Kf2 Bb6+ 29.Kg2 Bd4 30.Nd1 Rb4 31.Rd2 Nc6 32.Rc2 Ne5 33.Rd2 Nc6 34.Rc2** Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Predke,Alexandr** **2652**
■ **Brunello,Sabino** **2499**
SRB-chT Premier (11.2) 28.09.2023
*[Nigel Davies,MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4**

[The most popular move was 6.Bg5 after which c5 7.Bxc4 This simple capture on c4 has become increasingly popular. Obviously it sacrifices a pawn, but White has long term compensation because of his activity. cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 aiming for Nb5. Qa5 has a tonne of theory attached to it. ]

**6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nf6 8.a3N** Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. A very rare move that Vidit had played in an internet blitz game the previous year. White has compensation. White is slightly better.

[ 8.Qa4+ keeps more tension. Nc6

A) 9.Bg5 Bxc3 ( *9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5 exd5 12.Rfe1+ Be6 13.Bxd5 0-0 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Rad1* 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6. Bxc4-Vienna 8.Qa4+ with 9.Bg5 #1 ) 10.bxc3 0-0 11.Rae1 h6 12.Bh4 Ne7 13.Bxf6 gxf6 14.Qc2 Kg7 15.Nh4 f5 16.Re3 Rg8 17.Rh3 Kh7 18.Qc1 Rg7 19.Nf3 Ng8 20.Re1 c5 21.Rd1 cxd4

22.Rxd4 Qf6 23.Qf4 Qe7 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 43 Game 3;

**B)** 9.Ne5

**B1)** 9...Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 *( 12...0-0 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 Rb8 15.b3 Rb6 16.d5 Be5 17.Rad1 Qc8 18.Rfe1 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Nxd5 20.Bxd5 exd5 21.Rxd5 Rd6* 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 8.Qa4+ with 9.Ne5 #2 *)* 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7);

**B2)** 9...Rb8 10.d5 ]

**8...Be7**

[ White also has compensation after 8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.Bg5 Nbd7 11.Re1 . Black won't be able to use his extra pawn for a long time, and White can use this time to develop an attack. ]

**9.Re1 Nbd7N**

[ Vorgänger: Vidit - Wagner, Titled Tuesday blitz 2022 had gone 9...0-0 10.Bf4 c5 1.40/21 *( 10...Nbd7=* 0.09/21 remains equal.*)* 11.d5± exd5 12.Nxd5 with a strong initiative. Nxd5 13.Qxd5 0.13/24 *( 13.Bxd5±* 1.30/25 Qb3 would now be deadly. *Nd7 14.Qc2 )* 13...Nc6= 14.Qh5 Hoping for Rad1. Bf6? 1.97/20 *(*Better is *14...Be6!±* 0.35/17 *15.Rad1 Qb6 16.Rxe6 fxe6 )* 15.Ng5? 0.37/23 *(*Only move: *15.Rad1!+-* 1.97/20 Qxf7+! would kill now. *Bd7 16.Rd6 )* 15...Bxg5∓ 16.Bxg5 1-0 Vidit,S (2723)-Wagner,D (2287) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st May Early blitz 2022 (1) ]

**10.Qc2 Nb6** Putting the knight here will make it difficult for Black to ever free his position with ...c7-c5. This allows White to systematically strengthen his position whilst it's not clear what Black can do.

**11.Bd3 0-0 12.Bf4 g6** 0.31/20

[ 12...c6= -0.16/21 ]

**13.h4!** I like this move a lot, just aiming to soften up Black's king position.

**13...Bd7 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Ne5 Bc6 16.Rad1 Bd5** 0.81/18

[ 16...Nbd5± 0.42/19 was preferrable. ]

**17.Re3!±** And now a good old-fashioned rook lift! White has more active pieces.

**17...Nbd7** 1.86/17

[ 17...Bf8± 0.71/18 18.Bg5 Be7 ]

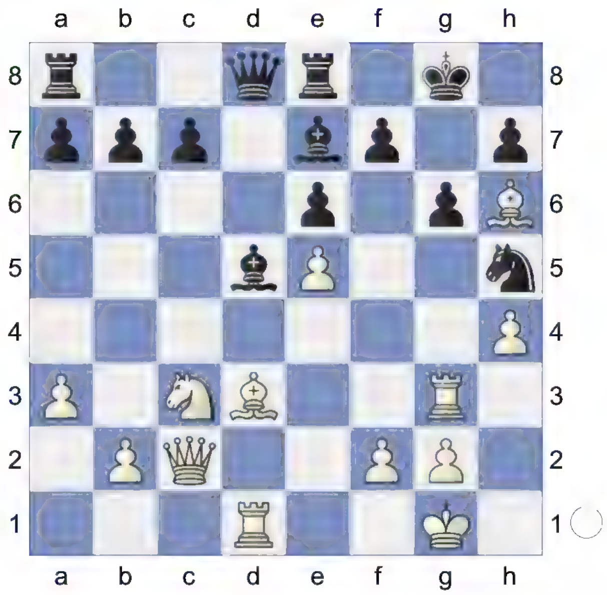
**18.Rg3!+-** With Black unable to develop active counterplay, White has systematically built up a strong attacking position. Intending Bxg6! and mate.

**18...Nxe5** 4.09/20

[ 18...Nf8 1.97/19 was called for. ]

**19.dxe5** Strongly threatening Bxg6.

**19...Nh5**

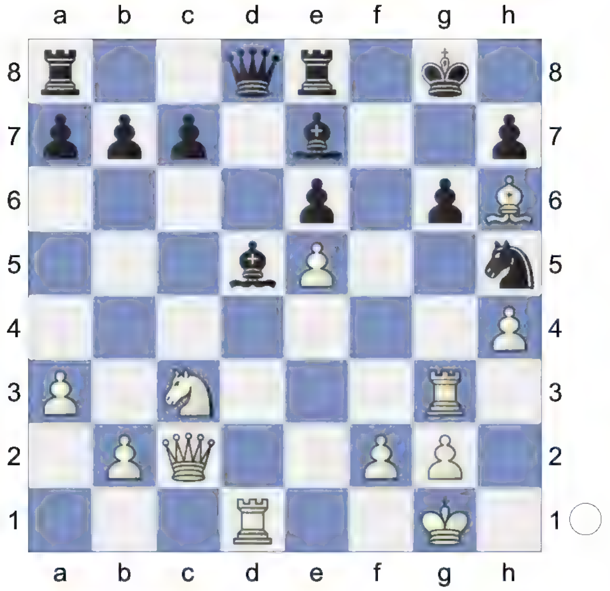


**20.Bxg6!** A brilliant combination which leads to a forced win. Demolition

**20...fxg6**

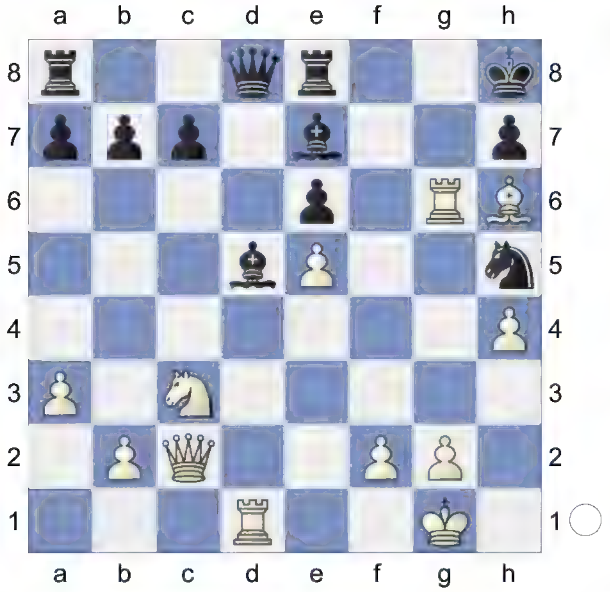
[ 20...hxg6? 21.Rxg6+ fxg6 22.Qxg6+ Kh8 23.Qxh5 ]

[ 20...Nxg3 21.Bxf7+ ]



**21.Rxg6+** Demolition **21...Kh8**

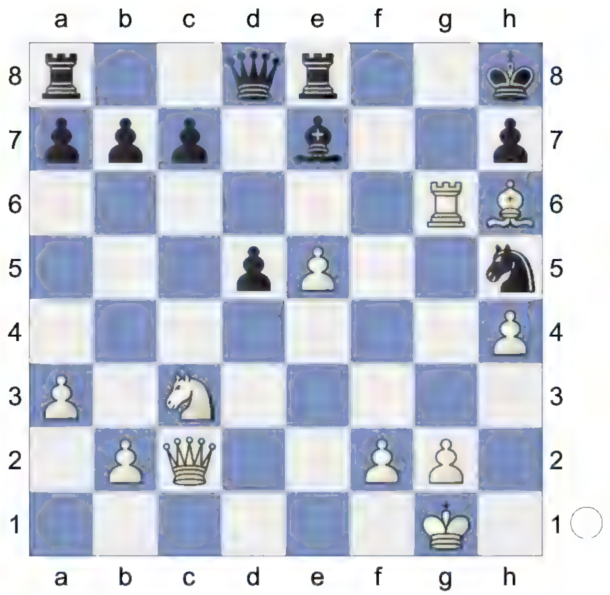
[ 21...hxg6 22.Qxg6+ Kh8 23.Qxh5 ]



**22.Rxd5!** Black is weak on the dark squares **22...Qc8**

[After 22...exd5? 18.29/16 22...Qc8 3.81

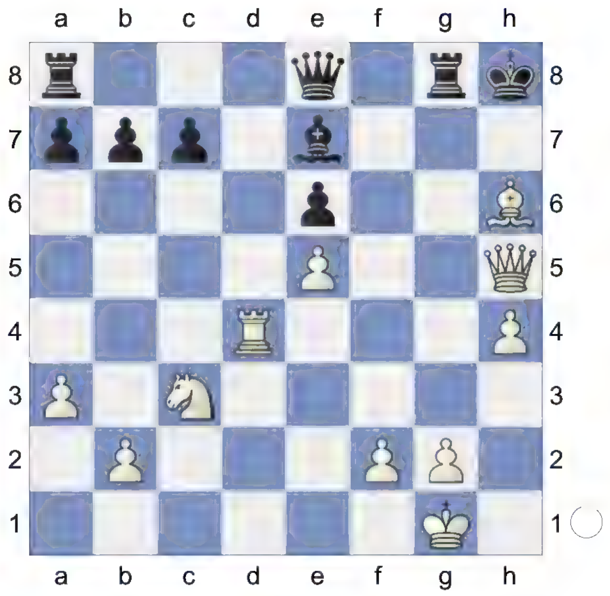
(Diagram)



White has 23.Bg7+! Nxg7 24.Rh6 with a winning attack. ]

[ 22...exd5? is the wrong capture. 23.Bg7+! Nxg7 24.Rh6+- ]

**23.Rd4** Rdg4! is the strong threat. **23...hxg6** **24.Qxg6** Trapped Piece **24...Rg8** **25.Qxh5** **Qe8**



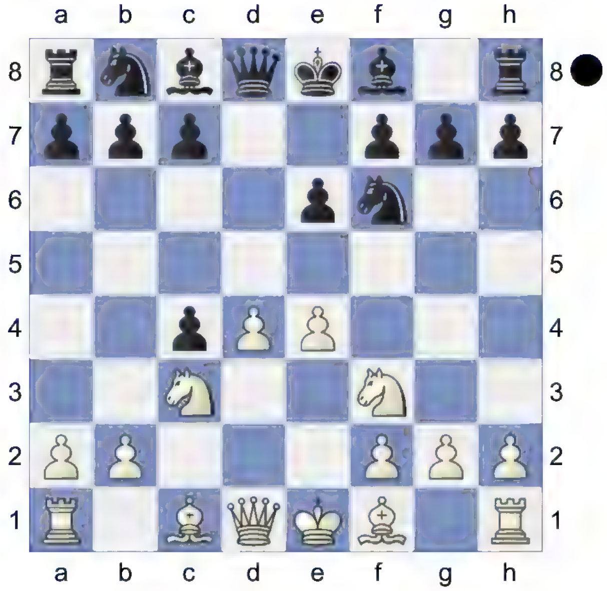
**26.Bg7+!** Decoy **26...Kxg7** **27.Rg4+** **Kf8** #3/33

[ 27...Bg5+- 4.52/18 28.Rxg5+ Kf8 29.Qf3+ Ke7 30.Rxg8 ( *30.Qxb7 Rxg5 31.hxg5 Rd8+-* ) 30...Qxg8 31.Qxb7 Qc8 ]

**28.Qh6+** A beautiful game by Predke, which also has theoretical importance. Weighted Error Value: White=0.07 (flawless) /Black=0.44
**1-0**

**D24**
☐ **Erdos,Viktor** **2613**
■ **Xiong,Jeffery** **2712**
Saint Louis Winter-A (7.4) 16.11.2019
*[Kapnisis, Spryidon, MH]*

Hess, Robert: 'Jeffery Xiong has cemented his place as one of the top American players. After spending three years in the 2600s, Jeffery crossed 2700 for the first time in August of 2019. He increased his rating while eliminating Anish Giri and Jan-Krzysztof from the World Cup en route to a quarterfinals appearance. His ascent has forced the chess world to wonder if a "Big Five" is on the horizon. In order to join the well-established quartet, Jeffery must be both well-prepared and unpredictable, as he was in this game against a very solid player who scored 11 draws at the FIDE Grand Swiss.'
D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3'' **1.Nf3** Hess, Robert Foisor,Sabina Francesca Foisor,Sabina Francesca Foisor,Sabina Francesca Kapnisis,Spryidon Foisor, Sabina Francesca: 'After losing to Jumabayev with the white pieces, a rebound was the much needed thing for Xiong keeping his hopes alive to sharing the first place!' **1...d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4** Hess, Robert: 'In recent games against Giri, Bluebaum, and Abasov, Jeffery had played the direct Queen's Gambit Accepted. While he has shown a propensity to take on c4 early, Erdos hardly could have expected his teenaged opponent to capture it here and enter the sharp Vienna Variation. After all, in their previous encounter just four months earlier Jeffery had played the Grunfeld. Preparing for an elite grandmaster clearly is never easy!' **5.e4** Hess, Robert: '



' **5...b5** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Quite risky!' Hess, Robert: 'Jeffery opts for a razor sharp continuation, though he stated that he didn't check the variation specifically for this game. The main line that has been played for decades does not provide Black the same double-edged tactical opportunities:' **6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5** Hess, Robert: 'White recoups his temporarily sacrificed pawn and leaves Black with a damaged structure, albeit with control of the board's longest light-square diagonal.' **7...Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qd2** Hess, Robert: 'Generally speaking, it is odd to hinder your own development, but repositioning the queen is a must if White hopes to obtain an advantage.'

[ It's been played a handful of times, but the following continuation seems to offer White little: 10.Be3 Hess, Robert 0-0 11.Rc1 Ba6 12.Nc3 ( *12.Na3* -0.13/21 12.Nc3 0.45 *Nb4* annoyingly targets the hanging a2 pawn.*)* 12...Nb4 13.b3 0.00/24 ( *13.a3±* 0.61/20 *Nd3 14.Rb1* ) 13...cxb3= 14.Bxa6 b2 15.Rb1 Nxa6 with a level game. ]

**10...Bb7 11.Rd1** Hess, Robert: 'This move caught Jeffery off guard, as the immediate' **11...Qd7!?** Kapnisis, Spryidon: 'By delaying short castling Black keeps his options open as to where his king will land.' Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'A topical theoretic line in 2019, since it has been played four times in over the board games. Diagram By delaying short castling Black keeps his options open as to where his king will land.

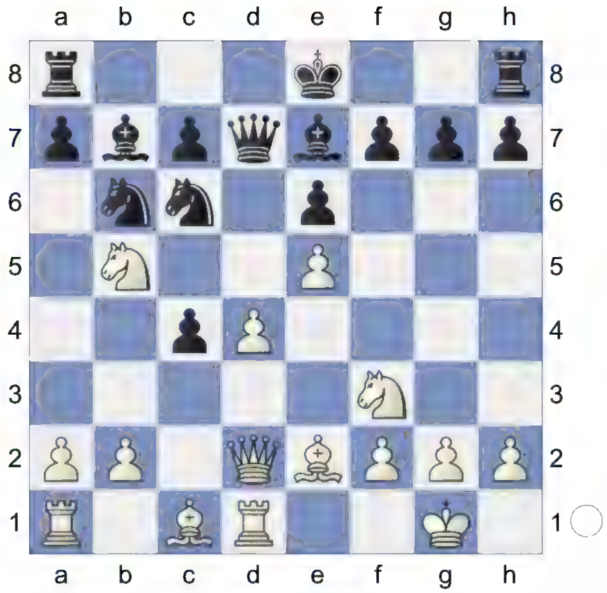
[ 11...0-0 Hess, Robert 12.Qf4 Nb4 13.Qg4 Kh8! 14.Nc3 undoubtedly requires more testing, but GM Dariusz Swiercz won a fine game with the white pieces from this position. ]

(Diagram)

' Hess, Robert: 'The black king heads to the queenside, where White lacks firepower.' **12.Qf4**

[ 12.Nc3 Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!?' '!?'

**A)** 12...0-0-0 Foisor,Sabina Francesca 13.Qc2 Nb4 14.Qb1 Qc6 15.Be3 g5 16.Ne1! N4d5



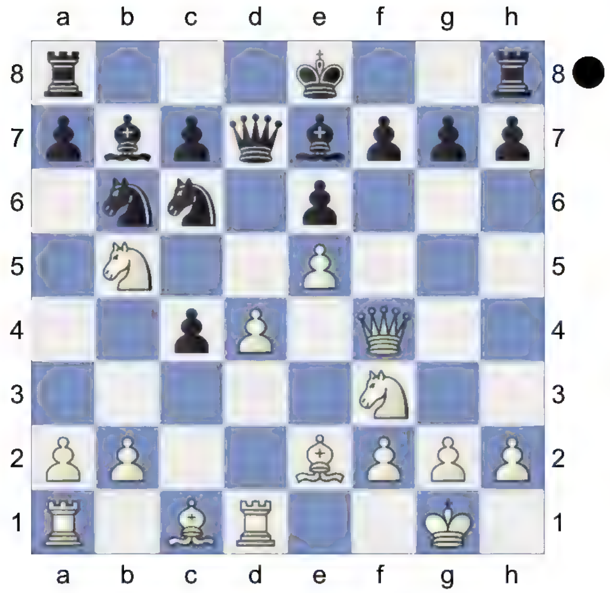
1.59/19 ( *⌂16...h5* 0.97/21 ) 17.Nxd5!± Nxd5 18.Rc1! Both **Leela** and **Fat Fritz** believe that White has decisive advantage here. Something that is hard to contemplate with naked eyes, though it seems that White's pressure on Black's weakned pawn structure surpasses Black's attack on the kingside.;

**B)** 12...Nb4 Foisor,Sabina Francesca 13.a3!? Foisor,Sabina Francesca N4d5 14.Ne4 Qc6 Wards off Nc5 15.Qc2 Nb4 16.Nf6+ Bxf6 17.axb4 Be7⇄ ]

[ 12.b3 0.01/22 12.Nc3 0.56 Foisor, Sabina Francesca cxb3 13.axb3 Nb4 14.Nd6+ cxd6 15.Qxb4 0-0 16.Ba3 Nd5 17.Qd2 Rfc8= ]

(Diagram)

Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '?!' Foisor, Sabina Francesca: 'Diagram [#]' [#] Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '?!' '?!' Foisor, Sabina Francesca: 'Logical but it is not engines' only choice; others include:'



Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Logical but it is not engines' only choice; others include: Diagram [#]' **12...g5!?** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!' Kapnisis, Spryidon: 'Black goes for a daring pawn sacrifice.' Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!' '!' Hess, Robert: '!' Hess, Robert: 'This thrust is natural, given that the removal of Black's own g-pawn hands him the open file and a blistering attack. Black goes for a daring pawn sacrifice.

[ 12...Nb4!? 13.Nc3 - Ding Liren (2805) - Caruana,F (2818) *( 13.a4* -0.03/17 13.Nc3 0.48 See the analysis in the game Ding Liren (2805) - Caruana,F (2818) *)*

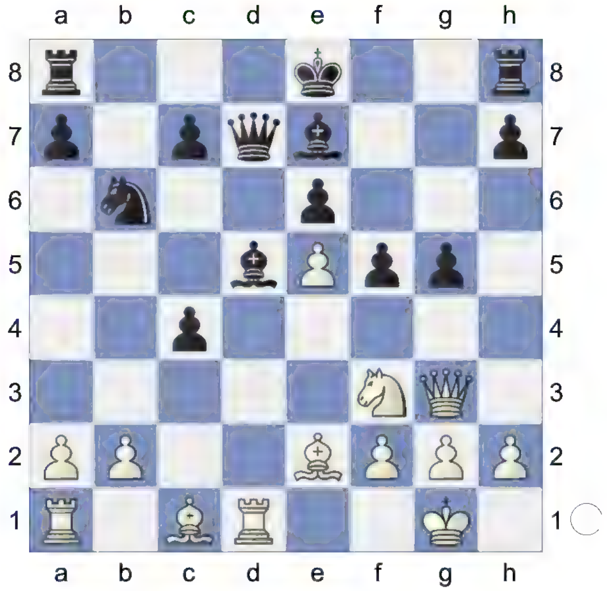
**A)** 13...f5 Foisor,Sabina Francesca

**A1)** 14.exf6?! was tried unsuccessfully in the game gxf6 15.d5 0.29/19 *( 15.Qh6!± 0.77/20 )* 15...e5 1.56/20 *( 15...N4xd5= 0.29/19 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 )* 16.Qh4 0.21/19 *( 16.Qg3± 1.56/20 )* 16...0-0-0= 17.Bxc4 -0.42/22 *( 17.Be3= 0.23/18 )* 17...Nxc4 18.Qxc4 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Qa6+ Bb7 21.Rxd7 Bxa6 22.Rxd8+! Rxd8 23.Be3 Kb7∓ -0.19/19 Li,Di 2523 - Narayanan, S.L 2616, Changsha 2019 *( 23...Rd5∓; 23...Rd5∓* -0.59/20 *)*;

**A2)** 14.exf6± 0.55/22 feels stronger. gxf6 15.b3;

**A3)** 14.Qg3 0.13/20

**A3a)** 14...g5!? 15.d5 -0.23/19 *( ⌓15.b3* 0.18/20 *)* 15...N4xd5= 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 *( 16...Bxd5* 0.46/21 16...Nxd5 0.03 Diagram

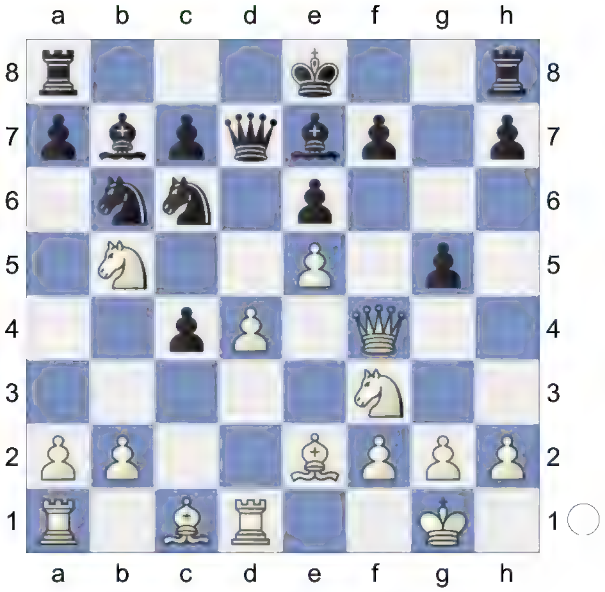


*17.b3! cxb3 18.axb3 h6 19.Nd4* and it is hard to find a safe haven for Black's king. *0-0 20.Bb5 Qc8 21.h4 Rf7! 22.hxg5 hxg5 23.Bc6!↑ )* 17.Bxc4 0-0-0! 18.b4 Bxb4 0.13/19 *( 18...Qc6∓* -0.33/19 *19.Bf1 Bxb4 )* 19.Bxg5= Rdg8! 20.Rab1!∞;

**A3b)** 14...0-0 15.h4↑ Ding,Liren 2805 - Caruana, Fabiano 2818, Saint Louis (rapid) 2019 Kh8 Hess, Robert 16.Bg5 N4d5 17.Nd2 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Bd5 19.a4 a5 20.Rdb1 Bxg5 21.hxg5 f4 22.Qh3 Nxa4

0.91/24 ( *22...Qe7⩲* 0.46/21 ) 23.Nxc4± f3 24.Bd3! g6 25.Ne3 0.19/20 ( *25.Rxa4!±* 1.04/21 *Qxa4* *26.Ne3* ) 25...Nxc3= 26.Rc1! Ne2+ 27.Bxe2 fxe2 28.Ng4 Rfb8 0.75/21 ( *28...Qe7=* 0.24/22 ) 29.Nf6± Qe7 30.Rc2 Rb3! 31.Nxd5 0.00/32 ( *31.Qg4⩲* 0.63/25 ) 31...Qa3!= 32.Qxe6 Qxa1+ 33.Kh2 Intending Qf6+ and mate. Rb6! 34.Nxb6 Qf6+ would kill now. e1Q 35.Qf6+ Kg8 36.Qe6+ Kh8! ( -> ...Qh1+) 37.Qf6+ Kg8 38.Qe6+ 1/2-1/2 (38) Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2818) Saint Louis 2019;

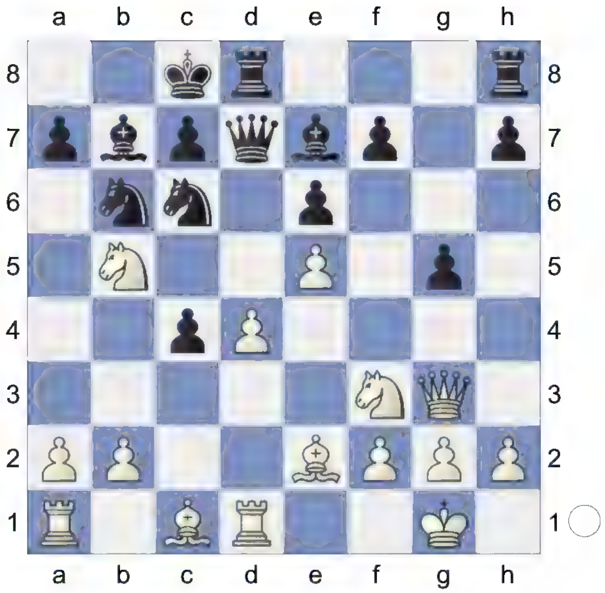
**B)** 13...N4d5 Foisor,Sabina Francesca 14.Qg3 is not really that advisable. ]



' **13.Nxg5** -0.34/19

[ Hess, Robert: 'The way Dubov handled this position seems much more sound than what Erdos did.' 13.Qg3!? 0-0-0

(Diagram)



**A)** 14.Be3 Nb4

**A1)** 15.Nc3 Kb8 16.Nd2 h5 17.Nde4 ( *17.Nxc4?! Nxc4 18.Bxc4 h4 19.Qg4 h3→* ) 17...N6d5 18.Rac1 h4∞;

**A2)** 15.a4 Kb8 16.d5!? N4xd5 17.Nxa7

**A2a)** 17...g4!? 18.Ne1 f5= ( *18...Kxa7? 19.a5+-* Pin );

**A2b)** 17...g4! 18.Nd4 ( *18.Qxg4* -1.16/19 18.Nd4 -0.57 *Rhg8 19.Qh3 Qe8!⩱* ) 18...f5!∞;

**B)** 14.b3 cxb3 15.axb3 Nd5∞;

**C)** 14.Be3± 0.42/20;

**D)** 14.d5! -0.16/21 Kapnisis, Spryidon: 'Pawn sacrifice which aims at disrupting the coordination of the black pieces.'Pawn sacrifice which aims at disrupting the coordination of the black pieces.

**D1)** 14...Nxd5 15.Bxc4 Kb8 16.Bxd5 Rhg8 ( *16...exd5 17.Nbd4±* ) 17.Be3 exd5 18.Rac1 h5 2.01/21 (Black should play *18...Rg6⩲* 0.63/21 ) 19.e6!+- fxe6 20.Rxc6! ( *20.Ne5!?* 0.66/22 20.Rxc6 1.

02 ) 20...Bxc6 *( 20...Qxc6* 2.03/20 20...Bxc6 1.18 *21.Bxa7+ Ka8 22.Nfd4+- )* 21.Ne5 Qe8 22.Bxa7+ Kb7 23.Nxc7! Kxc7 24.Qe3→;

**D2)** 14...a6 15.Nd6+! *( 15.Nc3* -0.28/20 15.Nd6+ 0.32 *exd5∓ )* 15...cxd6 16.dxc6 Qxc6 17.Be3!±;

**D3)** 14...g4?! 1.05/22 14...Nxd5 0.43 15.Qxg4 0.42/22 *( 15.Ng5!? Nxd5 16.Bxc4 a6 17.Nc3 Qe8 18.Bxd5 exd5 19.Nxd5±; 15.Ng5±* 1.05/22 *Nxd5 16.Bxc4 )* 15...Rhg8? 3.87/20 *( 15...h5! 16.Qf4 exd5 17.Be3⩲; 15...exd5 16.Qh5!±; 15...h5!⩲* 0.42/22 *16.Qf4 Nxd5 17.Qxc4 Rhg8 )* 16.Qh3? 0.07/19 *(* Hess, Robert: 'It was a blitz game, so the players can be excused for missing' *16.Qxg8!* Hess, Robert: '!!' *Rxg8 17.dxc6+-* Hess, Robert: 'when Black can't play Qxc6 due to the fork 18. Nxa7+.'; *16.Qxg8!+-* 3.87/20 *Rxg8 17.dxc6 )* 16...Nxd5? 1.17/18 *( 16...exd5∞; 16...exd5=* 0.07/19 keeps the balance. *17.Qh5 f6 )* 17.Bxc4± 1/2 (41) Dubov,D (2703)-Matlakov,M (2700) St Petersburg RUS 2018 Ncb4 1.52/19 Hess, Robert *( ⌓17...Kb8* 1.11/18 *)* 18.Bh6± a6 19.Nbd4 Kb8 20.a3 Wards off c5 Nc6 21.Nxc6+ 0.93/19 *( 21.Nb3+-* 1.79/19 *)* 21...Qxc6± 22.Bf1! was better for White but eventually drawn in Dubov-Matlakov from the 2018 World Blitz Championship. Certainly alterations and improvements are to be discovered for both sides.;

**D4)** 14...Nb4 Kapnisis,Spryidon: 'This seems like the best choice for Black.'This seems like the best choice for Black.

**D4a)** 15.Nxa7+ 0.13/5 15.Nfd4 0.65 Kb8 16.d6 cxd6 17.exd6 Bxd6 18.Ne5! Kxa7 19.Qa3+ Na6! 20.Nxd7 Bxa3∞;

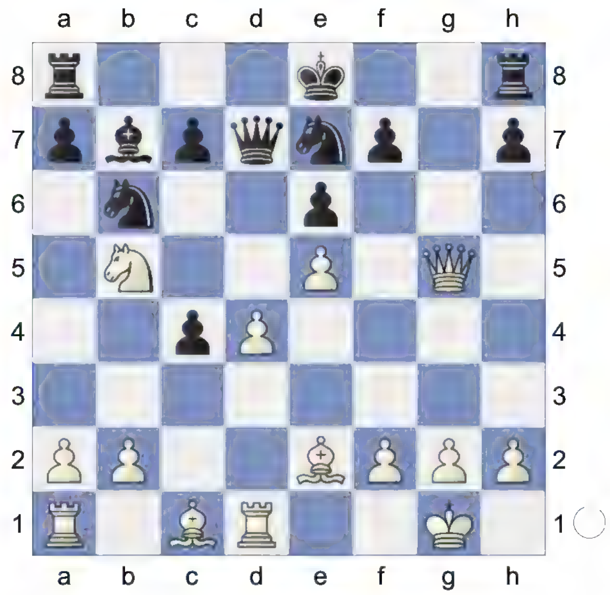
**D4b)** 15.Nfd4 N6xd5 16.b3!? c3 *( 16...Nf4* 1.63/22 16...c3 0.37 *17.Bxf4 gxf4 18.Qc3!± )* 17.a3 c2 *( 17...Nc6⩲ )* 18.Rd2 Nc6! 19.Nxc6 *( 19.Rxc2?* -1.01/26 19.Bf1 0.45 *Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Nf4!∓ )* 19...Bxc6 20.Nd4∞;

**D4c)** 15.Nfd4⩲ 0.46/25 is superior.;

**D4d)** 15.a4 0.10/19 15...N6xd5= 16.Nxa7+ Kb8 17.Nb5 Nd3∞ ]

[White should try 13.Qg3!⩲ 0.41/22 ]

**13...Bxg5∓ 14.Qxg5 Ne7**



Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!' [#] Foisor, Sabina Francesca: '!' '!' Foisor,Sabina

Francesca: 'Strong move!' **15.d5!** Kapnisis,Spryidon: 'The only way to deal with the double threat.' Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Also engine approved and it makes sense, as White fights for space. ' Hess, Robert: 'A necessary pawn sacrifice that closes the long diagonal, for the moment.'. DeflectionThe only way to deal with the double threat.

**15...Nbxd5**

[ Hess, Robert: 'The knight is poisoned, since Black's king will be mated.' 15...Qxb5? 3.53/22 15...Nbxd5 0.31 16.dxe6 Bd5 *( 16...fxe6? #9/15 16...Nbd5 3.43 Hess, Robert 17.Bh5+ Ng6 18.Bxg6+ hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kf8 20.Qf6+ Kg8 21.Rd4* when the rook lift instantly ends the game.*; 16...Nbd5* Hess, Robert *17.exf7+ Kxf7 18.e6+* is direct and overwhelming.*)* 17.Bh5+- ]

[ 15...Nbxd5!? 16.Bxc4 Rg8= ]

**16.a4N** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'N' Hess, Robert: '?' Hess, Robert: 'Too slow. White needed to hurry, since Black's pieces are ready to strike.'

[ 16.Na3! Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'does not help White much either as tactical threats on g2 are still very annoying.' Rg8

**A)** 17.Qd2 0-0-0

**A1)** 18.Nxc4 -0.95/23 18.g3 -0.48 Qa4!∓ *( 18...Rxg2+ -0.18/17 18...Qa4 -1.06 19.Kxg2 Ne3+ 20.Kh3 Nxd1 21.Qxd7+! Rxd7 22.f3* Black must now prevent Bg5. *Nf2+ 23.Kg2! Nd3∓ )*;

**A2)** 18.Bf3 Ng6∓;

**A3)** 18.g3 Qc6 19.Bf3 Nf5∓;

**A4)** 18.f3 Nf5∓;

**B)** 17.Qh5 Rxg2+! *( 17...0-0-0? 1.22/20 17...Rxg2+ -0.51 18.Bf3!± )* 18.Kxg2 Ne3+ 19.Kg1 Nxd1 20.Bxd1

**B1)** 20...0-0-0 21.Bf3! aiming for Bxb7+. Rg8+ 22.Kf1 Qd3+ 23.Be2 Qe4 *( 23...Qd5!? 24.f3□ Qd4= )* 24.f3! Qd4 25.Bg5! Qxe5 26.h4 h6 27.Qxf7 hxg5 28.Qxe7 gxh4 29.Bxc4 Bd5! 30.Qf7! Qg3 31.Bxd5=;

**B2)** 20...Qc6!? Wards off Bf3 21.f3! c3 ...cxb2 is the strong threat.

**B2a)** 22.b3? -2.18/19 22.b4 0.16 Qc5+ 23.Kf1 *( 23.Kg2? -3.86/19 23.Kf1 -1.08 0-0-0-+; 23.Kh1 Qf2-+* Repels Nc2*)* 23...Ba6+! 24.Nc4? -4.22/20 *( 24.Be2 -2.13/21 Bxe2+ 25.Kxe2 )* 24...Bxc4+-+ 25.bxc4 c2! 26.Be2 Qd4-+;

**B2b)** 22.b4! 0-0-0! 23.Bg5 *( 23.Be2 -0.37/22 23.Bg5 0.00* Foisor,Sabina Francesca *c2* and Black's initiative is much higher than the piece he has sacrificed. *)* 23...Rg8!=∞ ]

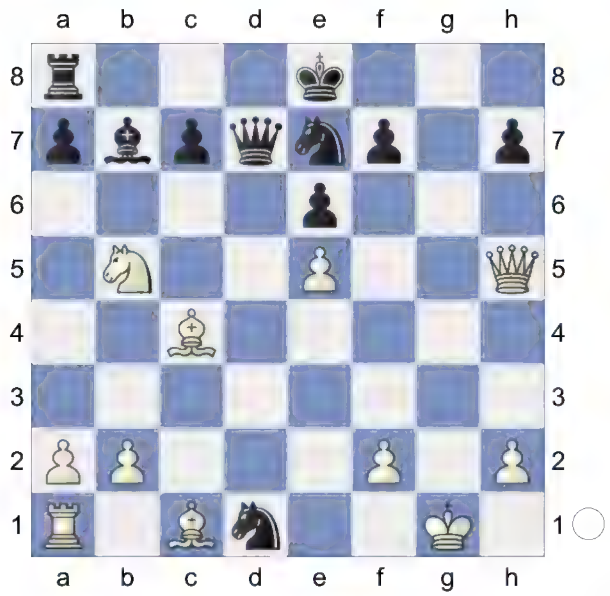
[ 16.Bxc4 Rg8

**A)** 17.Qh5 -1.08/22 17.Qd2 -0.48 (Hess, Robert) Black must not be overzealous in pursuit of a game-ending tactic. Amazingly,

**A1)** It's incredibly tempting to sacrifice the rook with a double check to follow, but it actually transitions into a terrible endgame for Black: 17...Rxg2+? 0.39/17 17...a6 -1.13 18.Kxg2

**A1a)** 18...Ne3+? 4.36/19 18...Nf6+ 0.43 fails spectacularly to 19.Kg1 Nxd1 6.34/19 *( ⌓19...N3d5 4.30/18*

*20.Bg5 0-0-0 )*



20.Bxe6!+- when the tides turn as the bishop can only be captured by the queen, which results in a family fork, while Qxb5 21.Qxf7+ Kd8 22.Bg5 is a forced mate.;

**A1b)** 18...Nf4+ 19.Kf1 Nxh5 20.Rxd7 Kxd7 21.Bg5 and White's bishop pair and superior queenside pawn structure give him the upper hand.;

**A2)** 17...Qc6 18.Bf1 Nf4 3.77/19 would win on the spot, if not for the distraction tactic *( ⌓18...Qb6* 2.54/19 *19.a4 a6 )* 19.Nxc7++- Kf8 *( 19...Qxc7 20.Bxf4* removes the queen's pressure on the g2 pawn and Bg3 next move will permanently close the file. The extra pawns decide matters.*)* 20.Qh6+ Rg7 21.Bxf4 crushes Black, whose rook is pinned and thus can't deliver the checkmate.;

**A3)** 17...a6! is the restrained move required to strengthen the impending Rxg2+, though even after 18. Nd4 or 18. Nc3 Rxg2+ 19. Kf1 Black has myriad complications to wade through. 18.Nd4 *( 18.Nc3 Rxg2+! 19.Kf1 )*;

**B)** 17.Qd2 a6! *( 17...0-0-0* 0.84/20 *17...a6* -0.50 *18.Bf1 )* 18.Na3 *( 18.Nd4 Rxg2+ 19.Kxg2* Threatens to win with Kf1. *Ne3+ 20.Kg1 Nxd1 21.Qxd1* Be3 would now be deadly. *0-0-0 22.Be3 Nf5∓ )* 18...Nf5! 19.g3 0-0-0→ ]

[ 16.Nc3 -1.18/20 16.Bxc4 -0.25 (Foisor,Sabina Francesca) - 142/(136) Rg8 17.Qd2 Rxg2+ 18.Kxg2 Nxc3+ 19.f3 Nxd1 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.Bxd1 Ng6 Zabolotnov,E (2255)-Kardashevskiy,E (2428) Saint Petersburg 142/(136) 2019 ]

[ 16.Nd4? (Foisor,Sabina Francesca) while it seems natural it leads to a crazy position where Black seems to be under control - Rg8 17.Qh4 Rxg2+! 18.Kxg2 Ne3+! 19.Kg1 Nxd1 20.Bg5 *( 20.Bxd1* -1.39/22 20.Bg5 -0.94 *0-0-0!-+ )* 20...Nxb2∓ ]

**16...Rg8**↑ Black fights for an advantage.

**17.Qd2** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Is seemingly forced.'

[ White had little choice but to retreat. 17.Qh5 -1.59/19 17.Qd2 -0.60 Hess, Robert a6 18.Na3 -2.13/19 *( 18.Nc3∓* -1.43/20 might work better. *Rxg2+ 19.Kf1 )* 18...Rxg2+!-+ at first glance doesn't appear to work, except 19.Kxg2 Ne3+ 20.Kg1 Nxd1 21.Bxd1 Qd5! forces 22. Bf3 to prevent mate, because after. Prevents Bf3 22.Kf1? -6.67/20 the undefended rook on a1 leaves White without hope. *( 22.Bf3; 22.Qf3* -1.98/26 *Qxf3 23.Bxf3 Bxf3 24.Nxc4 )* 22...Qh1+-+

23.Ke2 Rd8 24.Bc2 ( *24.Be3 Bg2* ) 24...Be4 is brutal. ]

**17...a6**

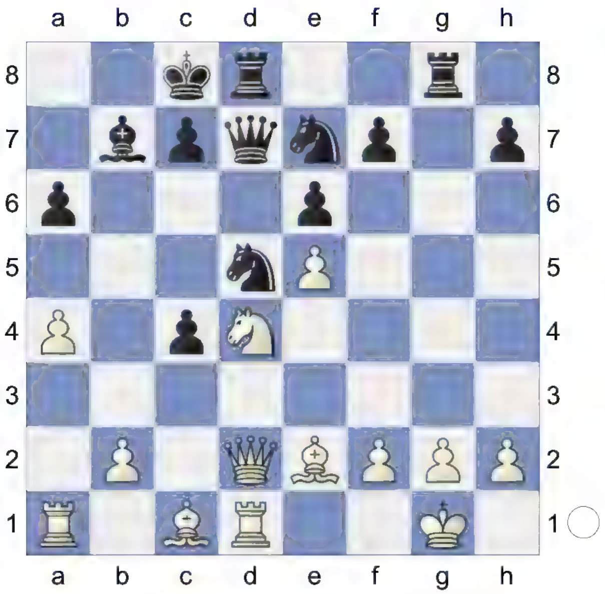
[ 17...0-0-0!? ]

**18.Nd4** -0.88/18

[ 18.Na3 Qc6 19.Bf3 Nf5!∓ ]

[ 18.Na3!∓ -0.36/21 0-0-0 19.Nxc4 ]

**18...0-0-0!∓** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'If they had told me that after 18 moves, I can have advantage in development with clear attack against my opponent's king, I would made that opening my main line on the spot. It is not easy to pinpoint were White really went wrong, but I think Qf4 was not a good move, and Nc3 was a much better choice.' Hess, Robert: '



' **19.f3?** -1.42/20

[ 19.g3 -1.20/19 19.Nf3 -0.51 c5! Hoping for ...Nb4. 20.Nf3 -1.96/21 ( *20.Nc2∓* -1.00/20 *keeps fighting.)* 20...Qc6∓ -1.26/18 ( *20...Nf5!-+* -1.96/21 *21.Qa5 Qc6* )]

[ Hess, Robert: 'The diagonal surely needed to be closed, yet doing so with the knight had a tactical flaw.' 19.Nf3 Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'was the last chance for a long fight.' Nf5!

A) 20.Bxc4? -2.64/21 20.Qe1 -0.72 Hess, Robert Qc6! 21.Qe2 Rd7! freezes White and allows the knight to hop from d5 without allowing an exchange on d8 with check. This is vital in the continuation. And now ...Nh4! would win. 22.Ra3? -4.09/23 ( *22.Bg5* -2.52/20 *Rxg5 23.Bxd5 Rxd5 24.Rdc1* ) 22...Nf4! 23.Bxf4 Nd4 24.Rxd4 Rxd4 when both bishops are en prise.;

B) 20.Ra3! Qc6 21.Qe1 Rg7∓ Kapnisis,Spryidon: 'Black is the only one attacking and from a practical point of view things look very bad for White.'Black is the only one attacking and from a practical point of view things look very bad for White. ]

[ 19.Bf3 Hess, Robert Ng6! 20.Qe2 Nh4 is straightforward. Losing the light-squared bishop is devastating for White. ]

[ 19.Bxc4? Rxg2+ 20.Kxg2 Ne3+ 21.Kh3 Bg2+ ( *21...Nxc4? 22.Qe2-+* ) 22.Kh4 Nxc4-+ ]

[Better is 19.Nf3 -0.93/21 ]

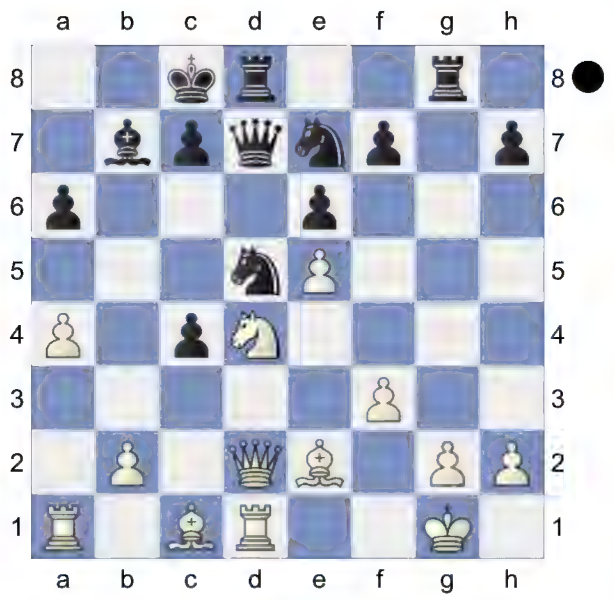
(Diagram)

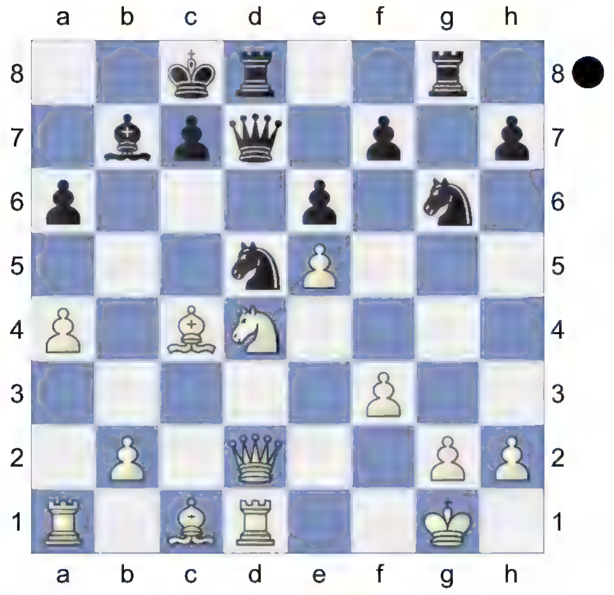
**19...Ng6! 20.Bxc4** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

' **20...c5!** Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!' Foisor,Sabina Francesca: '!' '!' Foisor, Sabina Francesca: 'Accurate and to the point. Black is winning.' **21.Nc2?** -3.20/21 Now White is beyond hope.

[ Hess, Robert: 'Erdos had hopes to





survive had he found' 21.Ne2

**A)** 21...Nxe5 Hess, Robert 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 with a steady edge for Black.;

**B)** 21...Qc6 -0.92/23 21...Nxe5 -1.39 (Hess, Robert) is not that easy to play over the board but is quite strong, given White's king lacks shelter. The pawn on e5 is hard to protect, though perhaps the imbalance that occurs after 22.Qg5 -1.42/20 *( ⌓22.Bb3 -0.92/23 )* 22...Ngf4!∓ 23.Qxd8+ -2.07/22 *( 23.Bxf4∓ -1.24/23 Rxg5 24.Bxg5 )* 23...Rxd8-+ 24.Nxf4 optimizes White's practical chances. Lasker compensation of rook, bishop, and pawn for a queen is quite a load of material.;

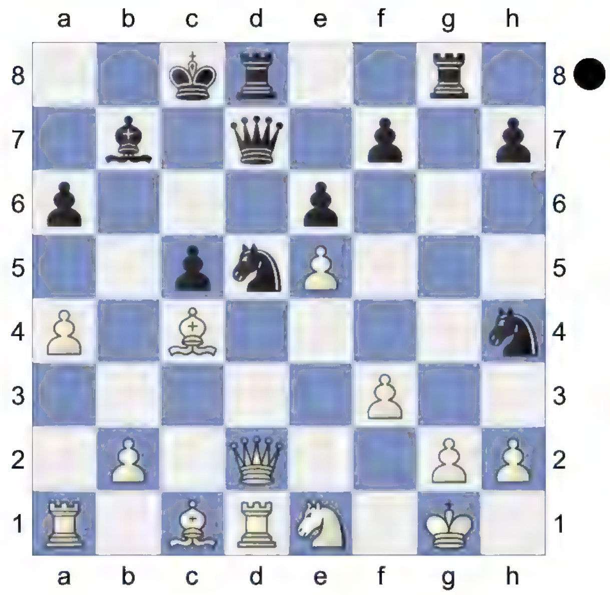
**C)** ⌓21...Nxe5 -1.50/25 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 24.Rxd5 exd5;

**D)** 21...Qc7∓ -0.91/20 ]

[ 21.Ne2∓ -1.32/20 was forced. Nxe5 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 *( 23...Bxd5 24.Ng3= )* 24.Rxd5 Bxd5 *( 24...exd5 25.Bf4∓ )* 25.Kf1 ]

**21...Nh4-+** Discovered Attack. Excellent horsemanship. **22.Ne1**

[And not 22.Bxd5 exd5 *( 22...Bxd5? 23.Ne1-+ )* 23.Ne1 Rxg2+ 24.Qxg2 Nxg2 25.Nxg2 d4-+ ]



**22...Rxg2+** Hess, Robert: 'A powerful blow that wins the queen. The rest is easy.' **23.Qxg2**

[ 23.Nxg2 Hess, Robert Nxf3+ merely loses another pawn.. ]

**23...Nxg2 24.Nxg2 Qc7** Black is clearly winning. **25.Bh6 Qxe5 26.Rac1 Rg8 27.Bf1 Qf6 28.Rxc5+ Kb8**

Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Certainly a nice victory by Xiong, narrowing the gap between him and the leader at the stage of the event, Rinat Jumabayev.' Hess, Robert: 'Down too much material, Erdos resigned this wild affair in which Jeffery ultimately seemed to have a better handle of the tactics.'.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.34/ Black=0.03 (flawless)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Smirnov,Anton** **2604**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David** **2694**
Tata Steel-B 82nd (11) 24.01.2020
*[Ed,Romain, MH]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3**

[ 7...Nf6 ]

**8.bxc3 Bd6!?** GM Robert Hungaski: 'Here we encounter another attempt by Black at catching White off guard. The idea is to keep the bishop active while keeping the h4-d8 diagonal open (especially the e7-square) for the queen. However, this is a truly dangerous approach for Black, who might soon regret giving up control over the g5-square' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Here we encounter another attempt by Black at catching White off guard. The idea is to keep the bishop active while keeping the h4-d8 diagonal open (especially the e7-square) for the queen. However, this is a truly dangerous approach for Black, who might soon regret giving up control over the g5-square' An interesting alternative to the more common 8...Be7. An interesting alternative to the more common 8...Be7.

[ 8...Be7 Is the main line, which has already been covered in several games in the archive. However, there have been no games played here over the past month GM Robert Hungaski: 'Is the main line, which has already been covered in several games in the archive. However, there have been no games played here over the past month' ]

**9.Qe2** GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'With this interpretation of the position, White abandons the idea of a kingside attack in favor of play in the center. White now intends to continue with Bd3, Rd1, c4 and d5. I believe this plan is too slow and gives Black plenty of time to come up with an adequate defense' GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'With this interpretation of the position, White abandons the idea of a kingside attack in favor of play in the center. White now intends to continue with Bd3, Rd1, c4 and d5. I believe this plan is too slow and gives Black plenty of time to come up with an adequate defense' GM Robert Hungaski: 'With this interpretation of the position, White abandons the idea of a kingside attack in favor of play in the center. White now intends to continue with Bd3, Rd1, c4 and d5. I believe this plan is too slow and gives Black plenty of time to come up with an adequate defense' Here White has tried many other moves. Let's have a look at the most recent or most concrete ideas.Here White has tried many other moves. Let's have a look at the most recent or most concrete ideas.

[ GM Robert Hungaski: 'White's most aggressive, and by far the most critical move in the position, is' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White's most aggressive, and by far the most critical move in the position, is' 9.Ng5 has been played the more often. has been played the more often. h6 *( 9...0-0 10.Qd3 g6 11.Qh3 h5 12.g4→ )* 10.Qh5!? The most recent try. The most recent try. *( 10.Ne4 0-0 11.Re1 Nd7 12.Qf3* is the start of another long line .is the start of another long line.; *10.Nxf7!? Kxf7 11.f4 Ke7 12.Qe2 Rf8 13.f5 Rf6 14.Bd2=∞ )* 10...0-0 *( 10...Qf6 11.Ne4 Qg6 12.Nxd6+ cxd6 13.Qb5+ Nc6 14.Ba3=∞ )* 11.Ne4 GM Robert Hungaski: ' =∞''=∞''=∞' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Black's lag in his queenside development is telling. For example, the game might continue' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Black's lag in his queenside development is telling. For example, the game might continue' *( 11.Re1 hxg5 12.Bxg5 Be7 13.Bd3 f5 14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Bxf5 Rxf5 16.Qxf5* 1-0 (36) Sulskis,S (2577)-Lupulescu,C (2657) Porto Carras 20111-0 (36) Sulskis,S (2577)-Lupulescu,C (2657) Porto Carras 2011 *Nc6!? )*

**A)** 11...Nd7 may also hold, as may also hold, as 12.Bxh6 only leads to a draw:only leads to a draw: gxh6 13.Qxh6 Re8

**A1)** 14.Rae1 Bf8

**A1a)** 15.Qf4 Bg7 16.Re3 Nf8 17.Rg3 Ng6 18.Qg4 Bf6 *( 18...Kf8? 19.Ng5+-* GM Robert Hungaski: '0-1'; *18...Qh4? 19.Qxh4 Nxh4 20.Nf6++- )* 19.f4→;

**A1b)** 15.Qh3 Nf6 16.Ng5 Bg7 17.f4 b5! 18.Bxb5 Re7 19.Bc4 wasn't enough for White in the game Mamedyarov,S (2719)-Morozevich,A (2750) Moscow 2009, 0-1 (32), had Black played wasn't enough for White in the game Mamedyarov,S (2719)-Morozevich,A (2750) Moscow 2009, 0-1 (32), had Black played Bb7!? for example. for example.;

**A2)** 14.Qh5 Kg7□ *( 14...Nf8? 15.f4! Ng6 16.f5 Qh4 17.Qxh4 Nxh4 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Nxe8 Kxe8 20.Rae1±* 1-0 (34) Zhao,X (2506)-Batsiashvili,N (2485) Iran 2016 1-0 (34) Zhao,X (2506)-Batsiashvili,N (2485) Iran 2016*)* 15.Qg4+ Kf8 16.Qh5=;

**B)** 11...f5 12.Nxd6 cxd6

**B1)** 13.Bxh6 forces a draw: forces a draw: gxh6 *( 13...Qc7 14.Qg6 d5 15.Bb3 Rf6 16.Qe8+ Rf8 17.Qg6 Rf6* ½-½ (17) Nikolaidis,I (2493)-Drozdovskij,Y (2624) Greece 2010 ½-½ (17) Nikolaidis,I (2493)-Drozdovskij,Y (2624) Greece 2010*)* 14.Qg6+ Kh8 15.Qxh6+ Kg8 16.Qg6+ Kh8 17.Qh6+ Kg8 18.Qg6+ ½-½ (18) Lenic,L (2644)-Aronian, L (2758) Batumi 2019 ½-½ (18) Lenic,L (2644)-Aronian, L (2758) Batumi 2019;

**B2)** 13.Re1!? Rf6!? *( 13...d5 14.Bb3 Nc6* is also playable is also playable*)* 14.Bf4 d5 15.Bd3 Nc6 16.Rab1!? b6 17.h4 White definitely has compensation, but it is very hard to prove more.White definitely has compensation, but it is very hard to prove more. Bd7?! ( *17...Ne7!?* with the idea of ... Ng6 was stronger.with the idea of ...Ng6 was stronger.) 18.Re3 Qf8 19.Rbe1↑ ½-½ (37) Keymer, V (2500)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2539) Wijk aan Zee 2019 ½-½ (37) Keymer,V (2500)-Praggnanandhaa,R (2539) Wijk aan Zee 2019 ]

[ 9.Re1 GM Robert Hungaski: 'This move as well as White's other minor alternatives were previously covered in the game Korobov-Naiditsch, Reykjavik 2015 - see archive' GM Robert Hungaski: 'This move as well as White's other minor alternatives were previously covered in the game Korobov-Naiditsch, Reykjavik 2015 - see archive' 0-0 ( *9...Nd7?* loses in incredible fashion:loses in incredible fashion: *10.Bxe6! fxe6? 11.Rxe6+ Kf8 12.Ng5! Nf6 13.Qb3! Qd7 14.Ba3! Bxa3 15.Qxa3+ Kg8 16.Qb3 Kf8 17.Qb4+ Kg8 18.Re7+-* ) 10.Ne5!? This was Nakamura's try in 2019.This was Nakamura's try in 2019. ( And And *10.Bg5* was Nihal's:was Nihal's: *Qe8 11.Qd3 Nc6 12.Bb3 f6 13.Bh4 Qg6∞* ½-½ (59) Nihal,S (2610)-Sarana, A (2655) Cap d'Agde 2019½-½ (59) Nihal,S (2610)-Sarana,A (2655) Cap d'Agde 2019) 10...Nd7 11.Qg4 Nf6!? ( *11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 f5!* should be simpler: should be simpler: *13.exf6 Qxf6∞* ) 12.Qg3 Nh5 13.Qh3 g6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.g4 Ng7 16.Re3 ( *16.Bd3!? Rf8!∞* ) 16...f6∞ ½-½ (59) Nakamura,H (2749)-Duda,J (2731) Saint Louis 2019½-½ (59) Nakamura,H (2749)-Duda,J (2731) Saint Louis 2019 ]

[ 9.Bg5 was covered in Nakamura-Caruana, Saint Louis 2016 - see archive GM Robert Hungaski: 'was covered in Nakamura-Caruana, Saint Louis 2016 - see archive' ]

[ 9.Bd3 Nd7 ]

**9...Nd7**

[Starting withStarting with 9...0-0 shouldn't change much.shouldn't change much. ]

**10.Re1** GM Robert Hungaski: 'N' 'N' 'N' 'N'

[ 10.Ne5 0-0 11.Bf4

**A)** 11...Qe7!? 12.Rae1 Re8 13.Qh5 Nf8 14.Re3 f6 15.Bd3 Bxe5 ( *15...fxe5? 16.dxe5 Bc5 17.Bxh7+ Nxh7 18.Rh3+-* ) 16.dxe5 f5 17.Rh3 Bd7∓;

**B)** 11...Nb6 12.Bd3 Nd5 13.Bd2 c5 14.Rad1 ( *14.c4 Ne7∓* ) 14...cxd4 15.cxd4 b6 16.Qg4 f5 17.Qg3 Bb7 18.Bh6 Qe7∓ 0-1 (58) Santiago,Y (2473)-Pichot,A (2558) Hanoi 2018 GM Robert Hungaski: '0-1 (58) Santiago,Y (2473)-Pichot,A (2558) Hanoi 2018' ]

[ 10.Rd1 0-0 ( *10...Qe7!?* this is one of the main advantages of retreating the bishop to d6, the e7-square is quite useful for the queen GM Robert Hungaski: 'this is one of the main advantages of retreating the bishop to d6, the e7-square is quite useful for the queen' *11.Bg5 f6 12.Bh4 Nf8 13.Ne5 Ng6 14.Qh5 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Qc5 16.Bd3 0-0 17.Bxg6 hxg6 18.Qxg6 Qxe5∓* 1/2-1/2 (48) Maerevoet,S (2251)-Van der Lende,I (2343) Wachtebeke 2019 GM Robert Hungaski: '1/2-1/2 (48) Maerevoet,S (2251)-Van der Lende,I (2343)

Wachtebeke 2019' *)* 11.Rd3

**A)** 11...Qf6?! this is a typical mistake in these types of positions. The f6-square is usually reserved for the knight or the pawn. The following game is a nice illustration of how easily White's attack can unfold GM Robert Hungaski: 'this is a typical mistake in these types of positions. The f6-square is usually reserved for the knight or the pawn. The following game is a nice illustration of how easily White's attack can unfold' 12.Ng5 h6 13.Ne4 Qg6 14.Nxd6 cxd6 15.Rg3 Qf6 16.Qh5 Kh8 17.Bd3 e5 18.Bg5 Qe6 19.d5 Nf6 20.Qh4 Nxd5 1-0 (20) Pulvett Marin,D (2465)-Hernandez,C (2323) Barcelona 2018 GM Robert Hungaski: '1-0 (20) Pulvett Marin,D (2465)-Hernandez,C (2323) Barcelona 2018';

**B)** 11...Qe7 12.Ne5 f6? *( 12...f5!? )* 13.Ng6!! hxg6 14.Bxe6+ Rf7 15.Re3±;

**C)** 11...Re8! 12.a4 *( 12.Ne5 f6!∓; 12.Ng5 Nf6 13.Rh3 h6 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Rb8 16.a4 b6∓ )* 12...Qe7 *( 12...b6 13.Ne5 Bb7 14.Rh3→ )* 13.a5 *( 13.Ne5 f6∓ )* 13...Nf8∓ ]

[ 10.Bd3 GM Robert Hungaski: 'transposes to the game' ]

**10...0-0 11.Bd3 Re8 12.Bg5 Be7N** GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' '?!' '?!' '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'In these types of positions (especially when the knight is already on d7 and ready to go to f8), Black is usually quite happy to play ...f7-f6. Retreating with the bishop strikes me as too passive' GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'In these types of positions (especially when the knight is already on d7 and ready to go to f8), Black is usually quite happy to play ...f7-f6. Retreating with the bishop strikes me as too passive' GM Robert Hungaski: 'In these types of positions (especially when the knight is already on d7 and ready to go to f8), Black is usually quite happy to play ...f7-f6. Retreating with the bishop strikes me as too passive' Not a bad novelty, but I do not see anything wrong with what has been played before. Not a bad novelty, but I do not see anything wrong with what has been played before.

[ 12...f6 13.Bh4 *( 13.Qe4 Nf8 14.Bd2 c5∓ )* 13...Nf8 14.Rab1 *( 14.Rad1 Rb8 15.a4 Qe7 16.a5 Qf7 17.Bg3 Bd7∓ )* 14...c6?! *( 14...c5!∓ )* 15.Nd2 b6 16.Ne4 Be7 17.Bg3 Bb7 18.a4≌ 0-1 (69) Cuenca Jimenez,J (2490)-Salgado Lopez,I (2627) Las Palmas 20170-1 (69) Cuenca Jimenez,J (2490)-Salgado Lopez,I (2627) Las Palmas 2017 ]

**13.h4 Nf8!?**

[ 13...c5 14.d5⩲ ]

[ 13...h6 14.Qe4 Nf8 should be playable as well.should be playable as well. ]

**14.Bxe7 Qxe7** As in most positions in this line, White has compensation due to his extra space, but it is difficult to prove an advantage.As in most positions in this line, White has compensation due to his extra space, but it is difficult to prove an advantage.

**15.Rab1**

[ 15.h5 h6 doesn't help. doesn't help. ]

**15...Rb8 16.Be4 c5 17.Ne5 Nd7**

[ 17...Qxh4 18.dxc5 h6 19.Qb5± ]

**18.h5 cxd4** GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' '?!'

'?!' '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'If Black is going to take on e5, then it's better to keep the c-pawns on the board since a pawn on c3 will only cause discomfort in White's position, while the black pawn on c5 looks quite strong' GM Robert Hungaski: '?!' GM Robert Hungaski: 'If Black is going to take on e5, then it's better to keep the c-pawns on the board since a pawn on c3 will only cause discomfort in White's position, while the black pawn on c5 looks quite strong' GM Robert Hungaski: 'If Black is going to take on e5, then it's better to keep the c-pawns on the board since a pawn on c3 will only cause discomfort in White's position, while the black pawn on c5 looks quite strong'

[ 18...h6 0.29/24 18...Nxe5 -0.12 19.Bc2 ( *19.Nxd7* -0.01/22 19.Bc2 0.48 *Bxd7 20.Bxb7 Red8=; 19.Nxf7?! Qxf7 20.Bg6 Qf8! 21.Bxe8 Qxe8∓* ) 19...Nxe5! 20.dxe5 looks unpleasant for Black, as Qe4/e4 is coming. However, after. Black must now prevent Qd3.looks unpleasant for Black, as Qe4/e4 is coming. However, after b6! 21.Qe4 0.09/21 ( *21.Qd3±* 0.56/27 *Qg5 22.f4* ) 21...Kf8= And now ...Bb7 would win. 22.Qh7 Qg5□ 23.f4! Qg4! Black might be fine.Black might be fine. ]

[ 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 b6∓ ]

**19.cxd4 Nxe5 20.dxe5 b6 21.h6 g6**

[ 21...Bb7 looks sharper. 22.hxg7 Qg5 23.Rb3 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Red8 ]

**22.Qd2 Rd8 23.Qf4 Bb7 24.Rbc1**

GM Robert Hungaski: '?' '?' '?' '?' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White misses a golden opportunity to seize the initiative' GM Robert Hungaski: '?' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White misses a golden opportunity to seize the initiative'

[ 24.Bxb7 is a forced draw:is a forced draw: Rxb7 25.Red1 ( *25.Rbd1 Rbd7 26.Rxd7 Rxd7* ) 25...Rbd7 26.Rxd7 Rxd7 27.Rc1 Strongly threatening Qf6. Qd8 ( *27...Rd8?* 0.78/22 27...Qd8 0.00 *28.Qf6! Qxf6 29.exf6±* ) 28.Rc6 ( *28.Kh2≌* White's pawn deficit is easily compensated by his more active pieces and safer king GM Robert Hungaski: 'White's pawn deficit is easily compensated by his more active pieces and safer king') 28...Rd5 29.Qc4 Rc5= ]

**24...Rd4 25.f3! Bxe4 26.fxe4**

GM Robert Hungaski: ' ≌''≌''≌''≌' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Despite White's missed opportunity, he still has good compensation thanks to the h6-pawn and the overall weakness of Black's dark-squares. However, since Black has managed to activate his rooks, it should be enough to hold the draw but no more' GM Robert Hungaski: ' ≌' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Despite White's missed opportunity, he still has good compensation thanks to the h6-pawn and the overall weakness of Black's dark-squares. However, since Black has managed to activate his rooks, it should be enough to hold the draw but no more' GM Robert Hungaski: 'Despite White's missed opportunity, he still has good compensation thanks to the h6-pawn and the overall weakness of Black's dark-squares. However, since Black has managed to activate his rooks, it should be enough to hold the draw but no more' **26...Rbd8 27.Rf1 Kf8 28.Kh2**

The position is drawish. Black doesn't have enough space to really hope to win, but White is a pawn down. The one who pushes too much loses, as the game proves! The position is drawish. Black doesn't have enough space to really hope to win, but White is a pawn down. The one who pushes too much loses, as the game proves! **28...Ke8 29.Rc6 Rd2 30.Rfc1 R2d7**

[ 30...Rxa2 31.Rc7 Rd7 32.Rc8+ Rd8 33.R1c7 ( *33.R8c7 Rd7+-* ) 33...Rxc8 34.Rxc8+ Kd7 35.Rh8+- ]

**31.R1c2 Rd4 32.Rf2 R4d7 33.Kh3 Rd3+ 34.g3 R3d7 35.Rfc2 Rd1 36.Kg4 R1d4 37.Kh3**

[ 37.Rc7!? R4d7□ 38.R7c6= ]

**37...Rd3 38.Kg4 R3d4 39.Kh3**

[ 39.Rc7!? R4d7□ 40.R7c6= ]

**39...Rd3 40.Rc7 R3d7 41.Qc1 Kf8 42.Rc8 Rxc8 43.Rxc8+ Rd8 44.Rc7 Rd7 45.Rc8+=** GM Robert Hungaski: '=' **45...Rd8 46.Rc7 Rd7 47.Rb7?** -0.40/34

[ 47.Rc8+= ]

[ 47.Rc8+= 0.00/31 Rd8 ]

**47...Qd8!∓** And suddenly White is worse. And suddenly White is worse.

[ 47...Qd8!? 48.Rxd7 ( *48.Qa3+ Kg8∓* ) 48...Qxd7= ]

**48.Qa3+ Kg8** ( -> ...Xc8) **49.Qxa7** -0.83/28 GM Robert Hungaski: '?' '?' '?' '?' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White has been pushing for the win for the past 25 moves, but now he forces too hard' GM Robert Hungaski: '?' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White has been pushing for the win for the past 25 moves, but now he forces too hard' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White has been pushing for the win for the past 25 moves, but now he forces too hard'

[ 49.Rxd7! Qxd7 50.Qd6

**A)** 50...Qxd6? 7.94/18 50...Qe8 -0.46 51.exd6 White threatens d7 and mate. Kf8 ( *51...e5* aiming for ... Kf8. *52.d7+-* ) 52.e5+-;

**B)** 50...Qc8= Against Qb8 ]

[ 49.Rxd7!= -0.30/26 Qxd7 50.Qc1 ]

**49...Rxb7∓ 50.Qxb7 Qf8!** GM Robert Hungaski: '-+' '-+' '-+' '-+' GM Robert Hungaski: 'This is the move White must have missed. After the h6-pawn is eliminated, Black's king is brought back to life' GM Robert Hungaski: '-+' GM Robert Hungaski: 'This is the move White must have missed. After the h6-pawn is eliminated, Black's king is brought back to life' GM Robert Hungaski: 'This is the move White must have missed. After the h6-pawn is eliminated, Black's king is brought back to life' **51.Kg2** -2.28/30

[ 51.Qxb6 Hoping for Qe3. Qxh6+ 52.Kg4 Qd2-+ Wards off Qd8+ ]

[ 51.Kg4∓ -1.30/25 ]

**51...Qxh6-+ 52.Qb8+**

[ 52.Qxb6 Qd2+ 53.Kh3 Kg7 54.a4 -2.79/26 ( *54.Qb1∓ -1.41/21* ) 54...Qd1-+ Threatens to win with ... Qh1+. 55.a5? -#15/18 ( *55.Qf2-+ -2.06/23* ) 55...Qh1+ 56.Kg4 Qxe4+ 57.Kh3 Qh1+! 58.Kg4 Qf1!-+ lands White in a nasty mating net ]

**52...Kg7 53.Qxb6?** -5.56/24

[ 53.Qd8 -2.25/18 was the crucial defense. Qh5 54.Qf6+ Kh6 55.Qxf7 Qxe5 56.Qf8+ Kh5 57.Qf3+ Kg5 58.Kh3 ( *58.Qe3+ Kf6∓* )]

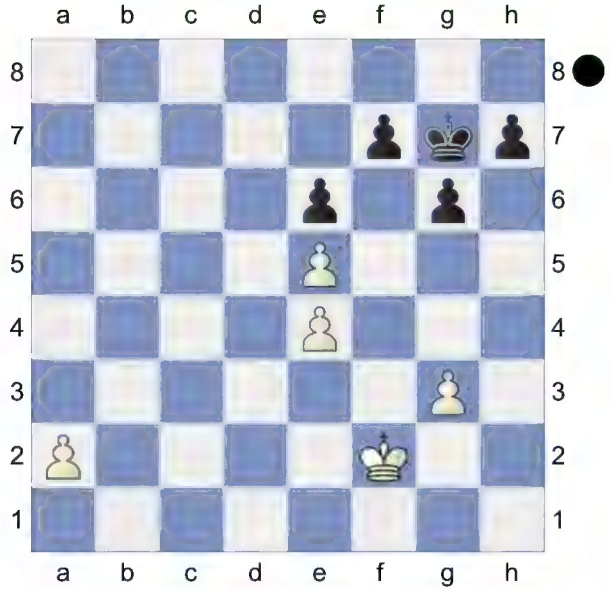
**53...Qd2+!-+ 54.Qf2**

[ 54.Kf3 Qxa2 GM Robert Hungaski: '-+' '-+' '-+' '-+' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White's pawns are simply too weak' GM Robert Hungaski: '-+' GM Robert Hungaski: 'White's pawns are simply too weak' is hopeless as White, as he has so many weaknesses.is hopeless as White, as he has so many weaknesses. ]

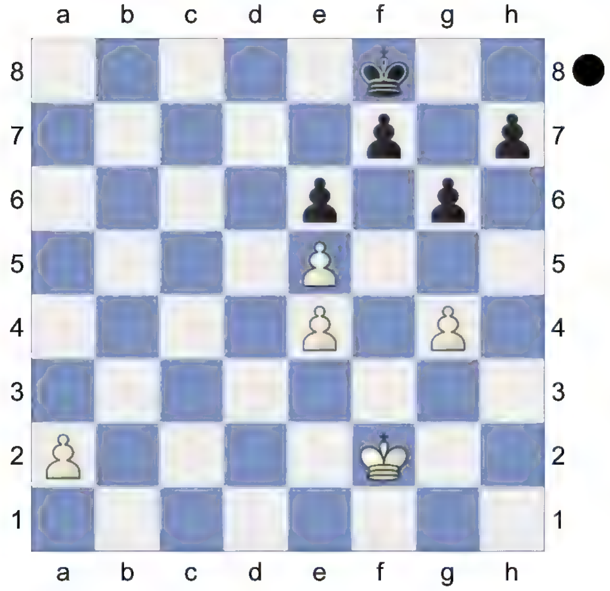
**54...Qxf2+!**

[ 54...Qa5? -0.41/20 54...Qxf2+ -4.68 is also good, but the text move wins. is also good, but the text move wins. ]

**55.Kxf2**



**Kf8! 56.g4**



**h6! 57.Ke3 Ke7 58.Kd4 Kd7 59.Kc5 Kc7**

[ 59...h5 60.gxh5 gxh5 61.Kd4+- ]

**60.a3 Kb7**

[Stronger than 60...h5 61.gxh5 gxh5 62.Kd4= *( 62.a4? h4-+ )*]

**61.a4 Ka6** GM Robert Hungaski: '0-2 Kf8 g4 h6 Ke3 Ke7' White cannot handle both his a-pawn and Black's h-pawn. White cannot handle both his a-pawn and Black's h-pawn. **62.Kd4** Kd7 Kc5 Kc7 a3 **62...Kb7** a4 Ka6 0- 0-1 (62) Smirnov,A (2604)-Anton Guijarro,D (2694) Wijk aan Zee NED 2020 [GM Robert Hungaski]

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Gukesh,Dommaraju** **2736**
■ **Ohanyan,Emin** **2460**
Chess.com U20 Speed blitz (1.17)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nfd7 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7** **9.h4N** Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[ 9.0-0 Nc6 10.b3 *( 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.Qf4 g5 13.Nxg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 Ne7 15.d5 Nbxd5 16.a4 Rg8 17.Qd2 a6 18.Nd4 0-0-0 19.f3 Ng6 20.Bxc4 c5 21.Nc2 Nh4 22.Ne1 Rxg2+ 23.Qxg2 Nxg2 24.Nxg2 Qc7* 0-1 (28) 11.♕f2 ♗d4 12. ♗d4 9961 (2613)-Tymrakiewicz,R (2712) La 58/228 Havana 1993 (7.4)*; 10.Be3 0-0 11.Nc3 Bb7 12.Qb1 Rb8 13.Ne4 Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6* 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4.h3 ♘f6 5. ♘f3 00 6. ♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7. Qa4+ Qd7 (5)*; 10.a4 Na5 11.Be3 Bb7 12.Na3 Bd5 13.Rc1 Qd7 14.Nd2 Bxa3 15.bxa3 Nxa4 16.Nxc4*

*Nxc4 17.Bxc4 Bxc4 18.Rxc4 Nb6 19.Qf3 0-0 20.Rc6 Nd5 21.Rfc1 Rab8 22.Qd1 Rb6 23.Qc2 Rfb8 24.h3 h6* 0-1 (34) Caulkett,P (2499)-4...dxc4 and 5...b5 (2623) Beer-Sheva 54/(222) 1992 (8)*)* 10...cxb3 11.axb3 0-0 12.Bd3 Nb4 13.Be4 N6d5 14.Bd2 c6 15.Na3 Ba6 16.Nc4 Bb5 17.Re1 a5 18.Nb2 Rc8 19.Na4 h6 20.Nc5 Bxc5 21.dxc5 Qe7 22.Nd4 Rfd8 23.Qg4 Kh8 ↑-↑ (48) 8.e3 ♗f5 9.♕b3 (2253)-Alba Fernandez,N (2371) Bruxelles (rapid) 55/(341) 1992 (8) ]

**9...Bb7N**

[Predecessor: 9...Nc6 10.Bg5 0.06/20 *( 10.Kf1⩲ 0.49/20 )* 10...h6 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Qd2 Bb7 13.a4 a6 14.Na3! Nxa4 15.Rh3 *( 15.Nxc4!? Nb6□ 16.Nxb6 cxb6 17.Ra3= )* 15...0-0 0-1 Krysa,L (2464)-Peralta,F (2560) ARG-ch 90th Buenos Aires 2015 (12) ]

**10.h5 h6** 0.54/21

[ 10...Qd7= 0.10/19 was preferrable. 11.Nc3 Nc6 ]

**11.Nc3 N8d7 12.Rh3** And now Rg3 would win. **12...c5** 0.84/19

[ 12...0-0!= 0.16/21 keeps the balance. ]

**13.Rg3± Kf8** 1.47/17

[ ⌓13...Qc7 0.73/19 ]

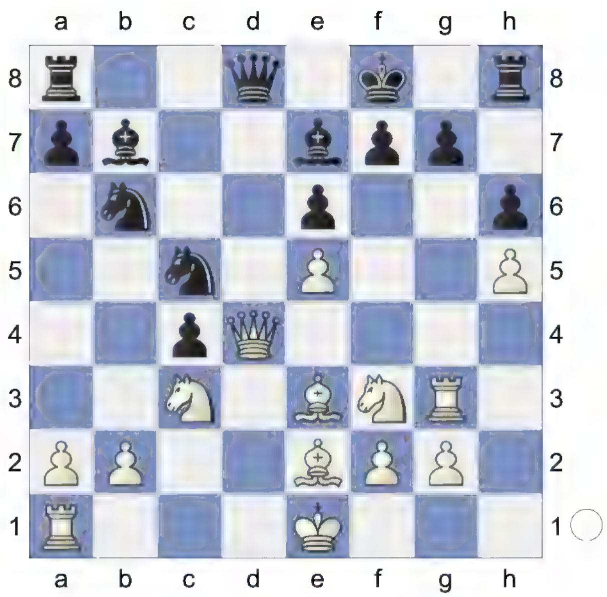
**14.Be3** White is more active. **14...cxd4** 1.75/18

[ 14...Nd5± 1.26/20 ]

**15.Qxd4+-** Strongly threatening Qg4. **15...Nc5?** 3.90/18

[ 15...Rg8 1.78/19 keeps fighting. 16.Rd1 *( 16.Bxc4 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Nxe5= )* 16...Qc8 ]

(Diagram)



**16.Qg4**

[ 16.Bxc4? loses. Qxd4 17.Bxd4 Nxc4-+ ]

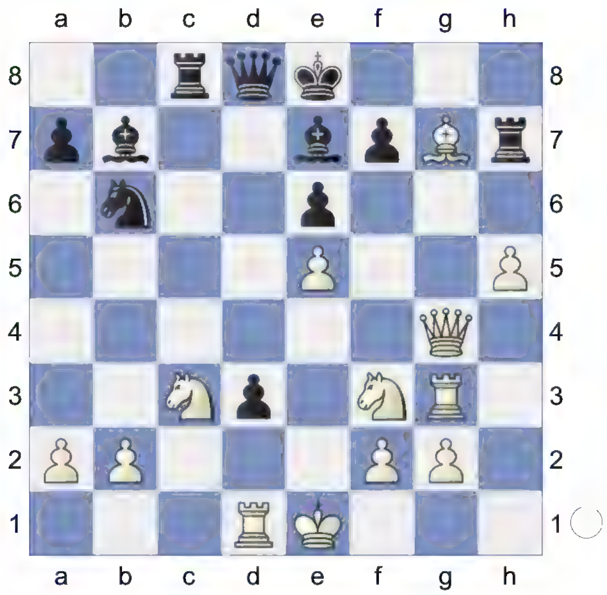
**16...Rh7 17.Rd1**

[Worse is 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc5 *( 18.Qxc4 Ba6∓ )* 18...Bxc5= ]

**17...Nd3+ 18.Bxd3 cxd3 19.Bxh6** Decoy **19...Rc8** 5.79/19

[ ⌓19...Ke8 4.12/17 ]

**20.Bxg7+** White is clearly winning. **20...Ke8**



**21.Bf6! Bxf6**

[ 21...Rh6 22.Qg8+ ]

**22.Qg8+**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.59
**1-0**

**D24**
☐ **Deac,Bogdan Daniel** **2671**
■ **Muradli,Mahammad** **2539**
Sharjah 154/(142) 2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3**

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 *( 12...a6 13.Bd3= )* 13.Qxc4 Na5 14.Nxc7+ Kd8∓ ]

**12...Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4! 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1**

[ 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2 30.R3b2 Rxb2 31.Rxb2 a5 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) ]

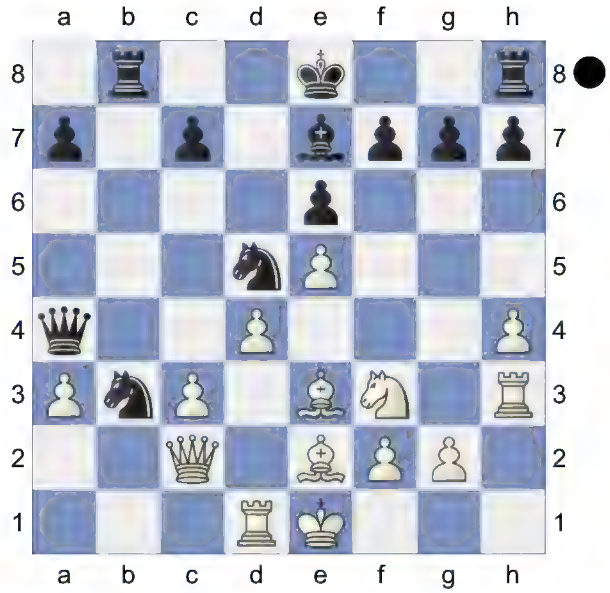
**17...Nb3** Wards off Nd2 **18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2**

[ 19.Qxc4 Qxc4 20.Bxc4 Nxe3 21.fxe3 Na5∓ ]

**19...c3N 20.bxc3**

(Diagram)

Rb1 would now be deadly. **20...Nc5 21.Qxa4+ Nxa4** A dynamic duo of knights. **22.c4 Nxe3 23.fxe3 Nc3**



0.71/20

[ 23...c5= 0.28/22 feels stronger. ]

**24.Rd3↑** Black is under strong pressure. **24...Rb1+ 25.Kd2 Rb2+ 26.Kxc3 Rxe2 27.c5 Rxg2 28.h5 Kd7** 1.21/21

[Better is 28...Ra2 0.75/21 ]

**29.Rd2 Rg4 30.Rb2 f5 31.exf6** 0.21/19

[ 31.a4± 0.84/19 ]

**31...gxf6= 32.Kd3 Rhg8 33.Rb7 Rg2** 0.67/18

[ 33...Ra8= 0.19/23 ]

**34.Nd2** -0.01/22

[White should try 34.Rxa7± 0.67/18 Ra2 35.Rh1 ]

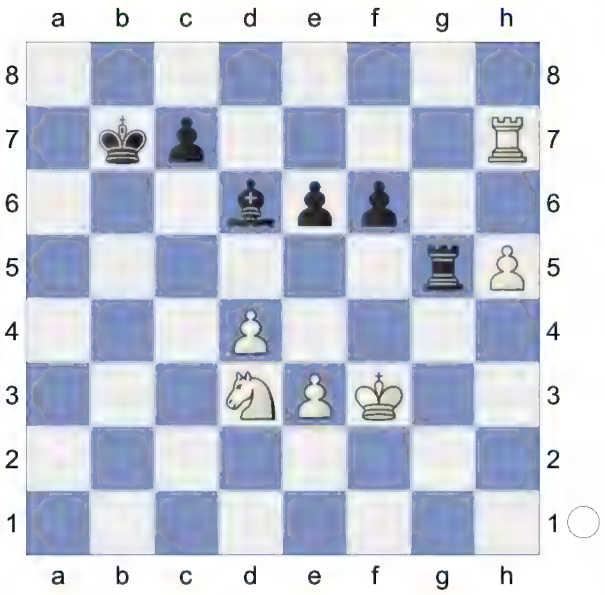
**34...Kc6 35.Rxa7** And now Ra6+ would win. **35...Bxc5! 36.Ra5 Be7 37.Rh1 R8g5 38.Ra8 Rb5 39.Re8 Rb2 40.Rd1 Kd7**

[ 40...Bxa3 41.Rxe6+ Kb5 42.Ne4± *( 42.Rxf6 Bb4± )*]

**41.Rh8 Bxa3 42.Rxh7+ Kc6 43.Nc4 Rb3+ 44.Ke4** White is more active. **44...Bb4** Dodges Na5+ **45.Rc1** Dodges Rc2 **45...Kb7! 46.Kf3 Rg5 47.Ke2 Rg2+ 48.Kf3 Rg5 49.Ke2 Rg2+ 50.Kf3 Rg5 51.Rc2 Kb8 52.Rb2 Rxb2 53.Nxb2** Endgame.

Hoping for Nd3. KRB-KRN **53...Kb7 54.Nd3 Bd6** 1.14/22

[ 54...Rf5+!= 0.28/22 keeps the balance. 55.Ke4 Bd6 ]



**55.Rh6** 0.01/29

[ 55.Nf4!± 1.14/22 ]

**55...e5 56.dxe5 Bxe5 57.Rh7 Bd6 58.Nf4 Rg1 59.h6 Rh1 60.Kg4**

[ 60.Kg2!? Rh4□ 61.Kg3± ]

**60...Bc5 61.Nd5 Kc6 62.e4 Kd6! 63.Rh8** Black must now prevent h7! **63...Bd4** ...f5+! is the strong threat. **64.Kf5** aiming for h7! **64...Rf1+ 65.Kg6 Rg1+?** 4.30/24

[ 65...f5!= 0.28/21 and Black stays safe. 66.Rd8+ Ke5 ]

**66.Kf7+- Rh1 67.Nxf6 Bxf6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.08 (flawless)

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Michalik,Peter 2558**

■ **Pavlidis,Antonios 2550**

Bundesliga 2223 (8.8) 25.02.2023

*[Raven Sturt,MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3** 10.Qd2 is more fashionable.10.Dd2 ist modischer. **10...0-0 11.Qc1** A new move for our site. Up until now we've only analyzed Nc3 and Qd2, check the archives. The queen placement is very logical it clears the way for a rook coming to d1 in a way that anticipates Nc6-b4 ideas. **11...Nb4 12.Rd1**

[ 12.Nc3 Ba6 13.Rd1 N6d5 0.81/21 was Muthaiah -- Cardoso, 1-0, 2022. *( 13...Rb8± 0.43/22 14.Ne4 Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Ne1 Nd7 17.f4 Qc8 18.Nxd3 Qb7 19.Nef2 Qd5 20.Rd2 Rfc8 21.Nd1 Bb7 22.Nc3 Qa5 23.a3 c5 24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Nxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 27.Kh1 h6 28.Qg1 Qxg1+* ↑-↑ (57) Kiselev,A (2414)-14. ♕d2 --- 14427 (2502) Mutxamel 5th 2023 (6) *)*]

[ 12.a3 was tried by Duda once, rather unsuccessfully against Pragg. Nd3 0.56/23 *( 12...N4d5= 0.17/21 )* 13.Qc2± b3! is the strong threat. c6 14.Nc3 Ba6 15.Rfd1 0.40/19 *( 15.Ne4± 0.78/22 )* 15...Nd5 was Duda -- Praggnandha, 0-1, 2021. ]

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Ba6∓ ]

**12...Bb7 13.Ne1N** -0.06/20

[Predecessor: 13.Nc3

**A)** 13...f6?! the computer hates this here, but I can't see what makes this position so different from when it's good for Black. 14.exf6 Bxf6 *( 14...Rxf6 15.Ne5±* The rook just looks silly now, with a transfer to g6 off the table.*)* 15.a3 *( 15.Qb1 N4d5 16.Ne4 Nxe3 17.fxe3 )* 15...N4d5 16.Ne4 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 This seems extremely similar to other positions arising from the f-pawn break. Perhaps the difference is the relative lack of development for Black here!?! Normally the Black queen is on e8 and ready to swing to g6 immediately. Also, the white knight on f3 has usually already been diverted making the diagonal pointed at the g2-pawn much weaker.;

**B)** 13...Rb8

**B1)** 14.Nd2 Qd7 Indirectly defending the c4 pawn through means of a tactical nuance. 15.a3 *( 15.Nxc4 Nxc4 16.Bxc4 Bxg2! 17.a3! Nd5 18.Kxg2* Black must now prevent Nxd5. *Nxe3+ 19.Qxe3 Qc6+ 20.Ne4 Qxc4 21.Rac1 Qa4 22.Qe2∞* White's light squares are weaker but Black's c-pawn will likely drop. *)* 15...N4d5 16.Nxd5 *( 16.Nxc4!? Nxc4 17.Bxc4= )* 16...Bxd5 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Qxc4 Rxb2 20.Rdc1± The c-pawn will likely drop but even then White will have to show great technique to win.;

**B2)** 14.a3 N4d5 15.Nd2 -0.82/20 *( 15.Nxd5 Qxd5 16.Bf1* was my game with White against Evan Park from last year in Budapest. Weirdly enough if I had won this game (it ended in a draw) I would have been in great shape for a GM norm in spite of losing to a 2100 the first round with White!*; 15.Nxd5=* 0.16/23 *Qxd5 16.Bf1 )* 15...Nxe3∓ 16.fxe3 c5 17.Nxc4 Nxc4 18.Bxc4 cxd4 19.exd4? -2.67/20 0-1 (27) Zadruzny,N (2280)-Ochsner,B (2496) Kragero 2022 *( 19.Nb5∓* -1.02/19 was called for. *)*]

[ 13.Nc3± 0.32/21 is more appropriate. ]

**13...N4d5N**

[ 13...Rb8 14.Na3 N4d5 15.Nxc4 Ba6 16.b3 Nxe3 17.Qxe3 Nd5 18.Qc1 Bb4 19.Bf3 Qh4 20.g3 Qh3 21.Nd3 c5 22.Nxc5 Bb5 23.Nd6 Nc3 24.Re1 f6 25.a3 fxe5 26.Bg2 Qg4 27.axb4 Ne2+ 28.Rxe2 1-0 (38) 6.00 c6 7.a4 ♕c7 8.a5 47315 (2314)-Sericano,C (2109) World Championship Match, 43rd Game 1985 (7) ]

**14.Bxc4** Giving away the light-squared bishop to win the c4-pawn engenders granting Black a huge compensation with his unique b7-bishop. **14...Nxe3 15.fxe3 Bg5** This pair of bishops is nice.

[ 15...Nxc4! Made relatively more sense as White will have to place his knight awkwardly to defend e3 soon. 16.Qxc4 Bg5 Strongly threatening ...a6. 17.Nc2 With two bishops vs two awkward knights and a pawn, Black obviously has full compensation. Qe7 18.Rd2 Rab8 19.Nc3 Long term White might eventually organize pressure on the weakened c-file, so for that reason Black should strike while the iron is hot. Against Bd5 f6!

20.exf6 Qxf6 21.Rad1 Qh6=∞ I think most GMs would take Black here with the two inspiring bishops. ]

**16.b3 Nd5?** 0.66/27 It is pretty insightful that even strong grandmasters struggle to handle the intricacies of these positions. Looking at computer lines these days, it seems everything will always lead to a draw. In real life, however, mistakes like this one happen all the time.

[ 16...Nxc4 17.bxc4 f6!⇄ Diagonals open up and the bishops will bridge the gap of the pawn minus. ]

[ 16...Nxc4= -0.02/22 17.bxc4 f6 ]

**17.Bxd5⩲ Qxd5 18.Nc3**

[ 18.Nxc7? Qe4 19.Qb2 Bxe3+ *( 19...Qxe3+ 20.Kh1= )* 20.Kh1 Rad8-+ *( 20...Rac8? 21.Nb5-+ )*]

**18...Qc6 19.Nf3!⩲** The light square battery proves useless against the cemented knight on f3. White will soon establish pressure along the c-file with logical moves. **19...Bh6?** Now the bishop can never cover the c5-outpost. White continues by securing e3 and then summarily winning on the queenside.

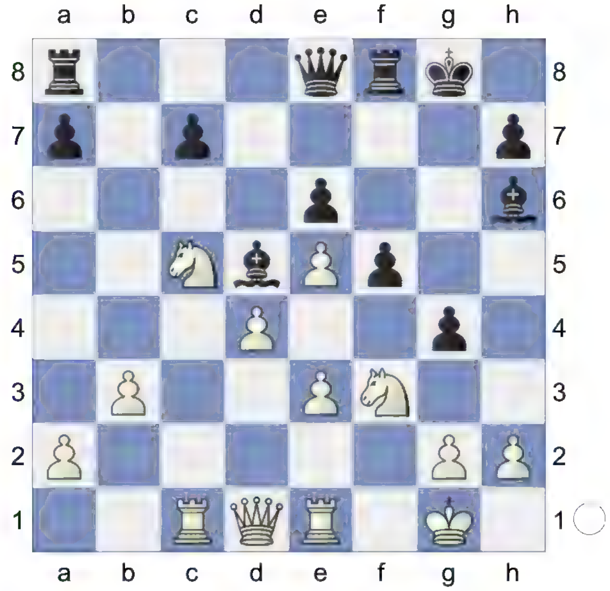
[ 19...Be7 20.Qb2 Rad8 would have seen Black still struggling, but with the c5 square contested, white wouldn't have such an easy road ahead. ]

**20.Re1 f6 21.Qc2!** freeing the knight to recapture on e5. **21...f5**

[ 21...fxe5? 1.86/19 21...f5 0.78 22.Nxe5 Qe8 23.Na4+- Not only are the knights looking better and better but White is already up a pawn and might snatch a second on c7. ]

**22.Rac1 Qd7?**

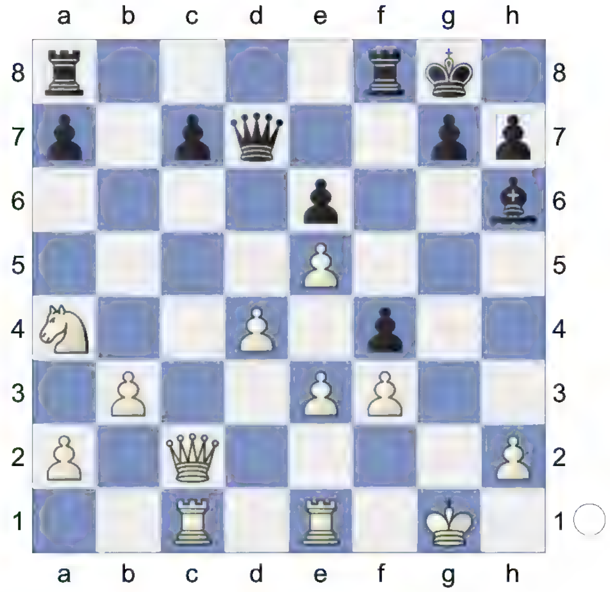
[ 22...Qe8⩲ apparently this was the only way to keep the game from being objectively lost, but it looks extremely bleak all the same after 23.Qd1 g5 24.Na4 g4 25.Nc5 Bd5 26.Nd2! White isn't breaking through just yet, but Black will need to play precisely the rest of the game. Now f4 is also weakened so he has no fortress-like setup to cover everything (his bishop can never cover both c5 and f4). ]



**23.Na4 Bxf3** 1.73/26

[ 23...Bd5⩲ 1.21/21 24.Qe2 *( 24.Qxc7 Qe8⩲ )* 24...Qe7 ]

**24.gxf3+- f4**



**25.Qxc7??** 0.31/20

[ 25.Qc4 And now Nc5 would win. fxe3 Threatens to win with ...Rae8. 26.Nc5+- White will pick up e6 and win easily. ]

[White should try 25.Qc4!+- 1.64/24 aiming for Nc5. fxe3 26.Nc5 ( *26.Qxc7?* is the wrong capture. *Qxd4 27.Qd6 Qd2-+* )]

**25...Qxc7± 26.Rxc7 fxe3 27.Kg2** 0.06/25

[ 27.Nc5± 0.48/23 Rxf3 28.Nxe6 ]

**27...Rad8!= 28.Rc4**

[ 28.Rxa7 Rxd4 29.Nc3 Rd2+ 30.Ne2 ( *30.Re2? Rc8-+* ) 30...Bf4∓ ]

**28...Rf4 29.Rxe3 Rfxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4** Endgame. KRB-KRN **31.Re2 Bf4** e5 is quite weak and the bishop is strong on f4, giving Black every reason to expect a draw with precise play. **32.Nc3 a6** Wards off Nb5 **33.h4 h6 34.Re4 Rxe4 35.Nxe4** b4 would now be deadly. KB-KN **35...a5 36.Nc5 Kf7??** 3.30/25 Loses the game.

[ 36...Bxe5 37.Nxe6 Kf7 38.Nc5 h5= Black has enough with his good bishop and White's weakness on h4 (this will keep Black's king locked in) to expect a draw. ]

[ 36...Bxe5= 0.01/26 37.Nxe6 Kf7 38.Nd8+ Kf6 ]

**37.Nb7+- Bd2 38.h5 Ke7?** 7.03/23

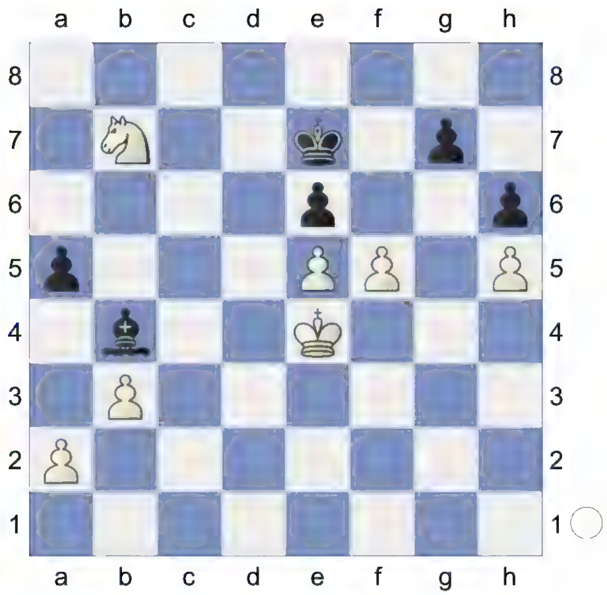
[ 38...g6? 6.34/25 38...Kf8 3.55 would be a good try if not for the trick 39.Nd8+ Ke7 40.hxg6! ]

[ 38...Kf8 3.81/21 39.Kg3 g6 ]

**39.Kg3** White is clearly winning. **39...Bb4 40.Kf4 Kd7 41.Ke4 Ke7 42.f4 Kd7 43.f5 Ke7**

(Diagram)

**44.Nd6! exf5+**



[ 44...Bc5 45.fxe6 ]

**45.Kxf5 Bc3 46.Nc4 Kf7 47.Ne3 Bb2 48.Nd5 Bd4 49.b4 axb4 50.Nxb4 Bc5 51.Nd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=0.29 (precise)

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Praggnanandhaa,Rameshbabu 2727**

■ **Bersamina,Paulo 2434**

Asian Games tt (9.5) 07.10.2023

*[Nigel Davies,MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

IM Kushager Krishnater: 'Chapters 13-15 are dedicated to the Vienna variation arising after 4...dxc4. This chapter will cover the position after 5.e4 b5 !? arising from the Vienna variation.' **1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.a3 0-0**

[ This has a similar level of popularity to 10...Bb7 . Black abandons the idea of castling queenside and looks for queenside and central play. ]

[Similar play occurs after 10...Rb8 11.Qc2 0-0 , which can also be reached via 10...0-0 and then 11...Rb8. ]

[ 10...Na5 11.Qc2 Bb7 12.Rd1 Qd7 13.Nc3 Bc6 14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) ]

**11.Qc2 Na5** Black has multiple possibilities on each move, which makes this opening difficult to prepare for in a concrete way. Here are some of his alternatives at this stage, with White's main focus being on the h2-h4 idea because Black has already committed his king.

[a) 11...f5 looks risky with Black castled short, but it could be playable. Sarana,A (2654)-Xiong,J (2709) Chess. com U20 Speed Chess.com INT blitz 2020 (3.3) continued 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.h4!? 0.00/25 (Simply *13.0-0* looks good, with Black having so many weak pawns.; Better is *13.Rd1± 0.67/22* ) 13...a6= 14.Ng5 Bxg5 0.70/20 ( *14...g6!= 0.00/25 15.Qe4 Bxg5 16.hxg5 axb5 17.Qxc6 Bd7* ) 15.hxg5± g6! 16.Qe4 0.36/19 ( *16.Nc3!± 0.85/24* ) 16...axb5± 17.Qxc6 Qd7 with a somewhat murky position which wasn't too bad for Black. ]

[ 11...Bb7 ]

[c) 11...Rb8 would be the same as 10...Rb8 followed by 11...0-0. ]

**12.Rd1 Ba6N** 0.91/20 This seems to drive the knight where it wants to go.

[Black has usually preferred 12...Bb7 , but then

**A)** 13.Nc3 Qd7 ( *13...Rb8 14.h4 h6 15.Rh3 Nd5 16.Bxh6 gxh6 17.b4 cxb3 18.Qc1 Kh7 19.Bd3+* Chapter Vienna-5.e4 b5!? 2021) 14.h4 is also not bad, for example Brunner,N (2457)-Bacrot,E (2641) FRA-chT Top 16 Gp Haute Chartres 2022.;

**B)** 13.h4 h6 Against Ng5 14.Rh3 f5? 2.52/20 ( *14...Rb8± 0.70/21* ) 15.exf6+- Rxf6 16.Ng5 was already winning for White in Lazavik, D (2440)-Xiong,J (2709) Junior Speed Final Chess.com INT blitz 2021. ]

[ 12...Bb7± 0.54/24 ]

**13.Nc3±** White is much more active. **13...Nd5 14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bg5** 0.44/22

[ 15.h4! is more to the point, for example f5 16.exf6 Bxf6 ( *16...gxf6 is well met by 17.Nd2!* ) 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.hxg5 g6 19.0-0 Bb7 20.f3 solidly covers the a8-h1 diagonal and leaves Black with pawn and dark square weaknesses. ]

[ 15.h4!± 1.24/22 ]

**15...f6± 16.exf6 Bxf6 17.Be3 Rab8 18.0-0 Qf5 19.Qxf5 exf5 20.b4 Nb3 21.Ne5** Black must now prevent Nd7. **21...c5! 22.bxc5**

[ 22.Nd7 cxd4 23.Nxf6+ Rxf6 24.Bxd4 Nxd4 25.Rxd4 Hoping for Rc1! Rc6 26.Rc1 ]

**22...Nxc5** 0.93/23

[ 22...Bxe5! 23.dxe5 Rd6 would now be deadly. f4! would have left White struggling to maintain any kind of edge. ]

[ 22...Bxe5!= 0.28/23 remains equal.

23.dxe5 f4 ]

**23.Bxc4+?!** 0.28/17

[ 23.dxc5! Bxe5 24.c6 was much better, with a clear advantage for White. He's still better in the game, but amidst the murk and confusion of mutual errors, Black escapes with a draw. ]

[White should try 23.dxc5± 0.93/23 Bxe5 24.c6 ]

**23...Bxc4= 24.Nxc4 Ne4 25.g3 Rfc8 26.Rc1 Rb3 27.Kg2 Rd8 28.Rfd1 a6 29.h4 h5** 1.08/22

[ 29...h6!⩲ 0.65/24 should be considered. ]

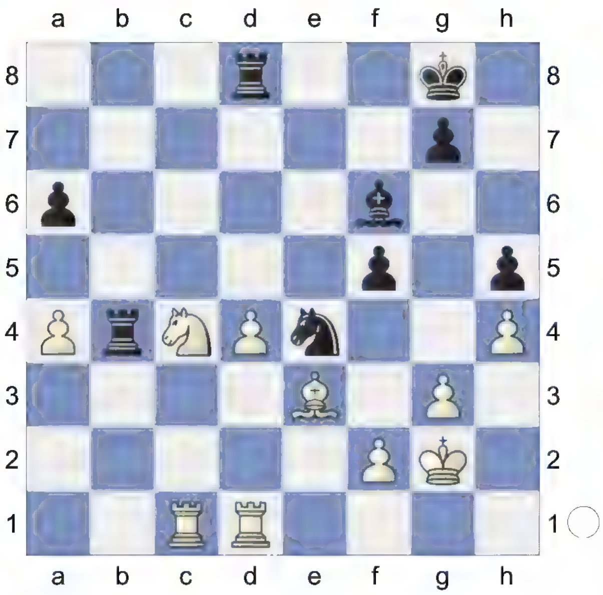
**30.Ra1** 0.54/22

[ 30.a4!± 1.08/22 ]

**30...Rb5** 1.00/26

[ 30...Rc8⩲ 0.54/22 31.Rac1 Rc3 ]

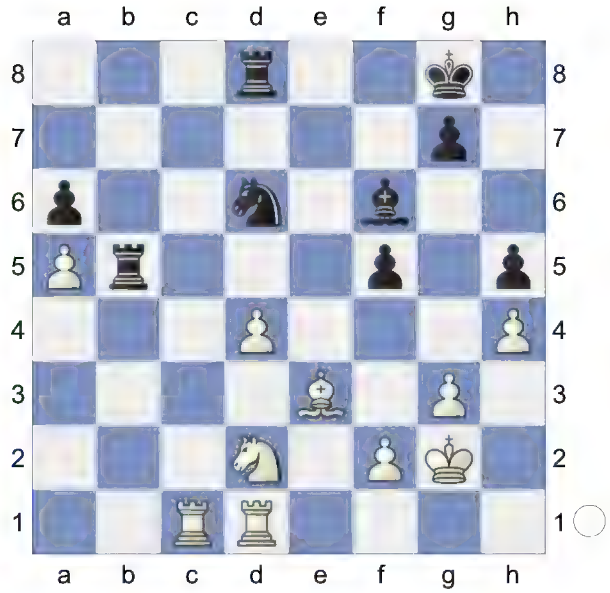
**31.Rac1± Rb3 32.a4! Rb4**



**33.a5** 0.45/21

[ 33.Nd2! is more unpleasant for Black, for example Nd6 *(Or 33...Rxa4 34.Nxe4 fxe4 35.Rc5* Dodges Ra5*)* 34.a5 Rb5

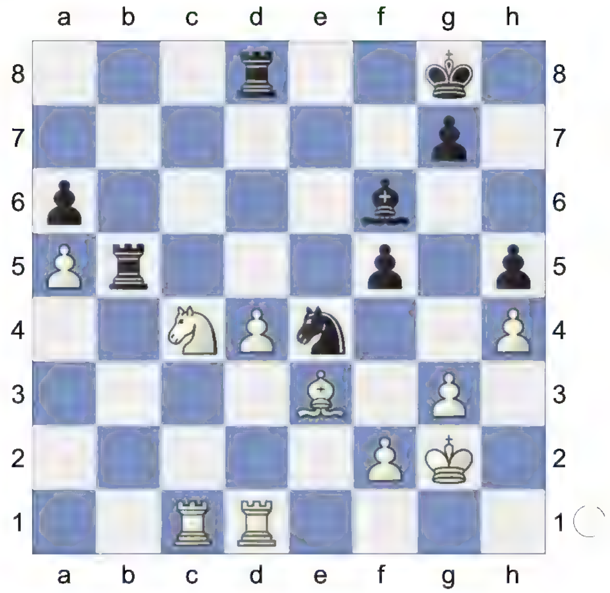
(Diagram)



35.Nf3! Rxa5 36.d5 gives White strong pressure. ]

[White should play 33.Nd2!± 1.17/25 ]

**33...Rb5⩲**



**34.Ne5! Bxe5 35.dxe5 Rxd1 36.Rxd1 Rxa5** Endgame. KRB-KRN **37.Rd8+** 0.22/22

[ 37.Rd7 , intending Rxe5 38.Bd4 , was Prag's last chance to put pressure on. Now the game peters out to a draw. ]

[ 37.Rd7!⩲ 0.64/28 ]

**37...Kf7= 38.Bd4 Nc5** Dodges Rd7+.

The position is equal. **39.Bxc5 Rxc5** KR-KR **40.Rd7+ Kf8 41.e6 Re5 42.Rd6 Ke7 43.Rxa6 Rxe6 44.Rxe6+ Kxe6** K3P-K3P **45.Kf3 Ke5 46.Ke3 Ke6 47.Kd4 Kd6 48.f3 Ke6 49.f4 Kd6 50.Kc4 Kc6 51.Kd4**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.12 (very precise) /Black=0.11 (very precise)
½-½

**D24**

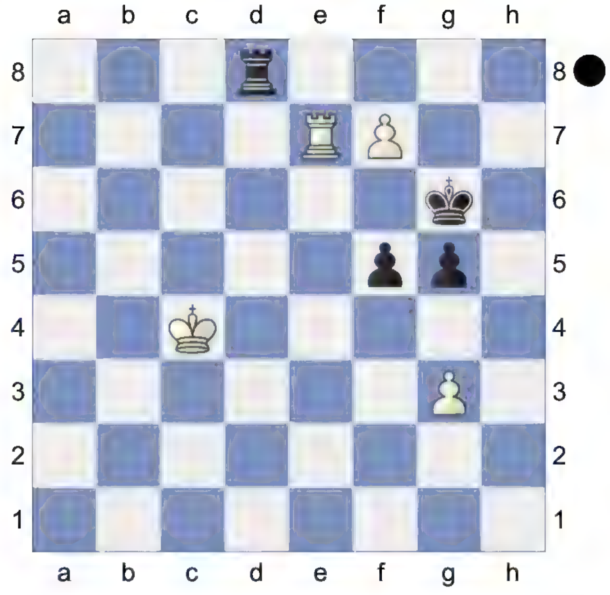
☐ **Karthik,Venkataraman** **2516**
■ **Xu,Xiangyu** **2587**
Menorca op 2nd (9) 16.04.2023
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3** **Na5!?** Exploring less charted territory.Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain. **11.Qc2 Bb7 12.Rd1 Qd7 13.Nc3** **Bc6!?** Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade. **14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4** **17.Qxa4+N** 0.00/25

[Predecessor: 17.Qc1 Nb3 Wards off Nd2 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 c3! 20.bxc3 Strongly threatening Rb1. Nc5 21.Qxa4+! Nxa4 22.c4 Nxe3 23.fxe3 1-0 (67) Deac,B (2671)-Muradli,M (2539) Sharjah 2022 ]

[ 17.Qc1⩲ 0.45/24 ]

**17...Nxa4= 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4** Endgame. KRR-KRR **26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2 30.R3b2 Rxb2 31.Rxb2** KR-KR **31...a5 32.Kd2 axb4 33.Kd3 Kg7 34.Kc4 Rd5 35.Rxb4 Rd2 36.g3 h6 37.gxh6+ Kxh6 38.Rb7 Kg7 39.Ra7 g5 40.f5 exf5 41.e6 Kg6 42.exf7 Rd8 43.Re7**



And now Re8 would win. **43...Rf8 44.Kd4?** -8.19/26 Black continues to play with concentration.

[ 44.Re6+= -0.09/21 Kxf7 45.Rd6 ]

**44...Rxf7-+ 45.Re6+ Kh5 46.Ke3 Kg4 47.Kf2 Rh7?** -0.08/19

[Black should try 47...Rb7-+ -8.19/37 48.Re3 Rb2+ 49.Kf1 Kh3 ]

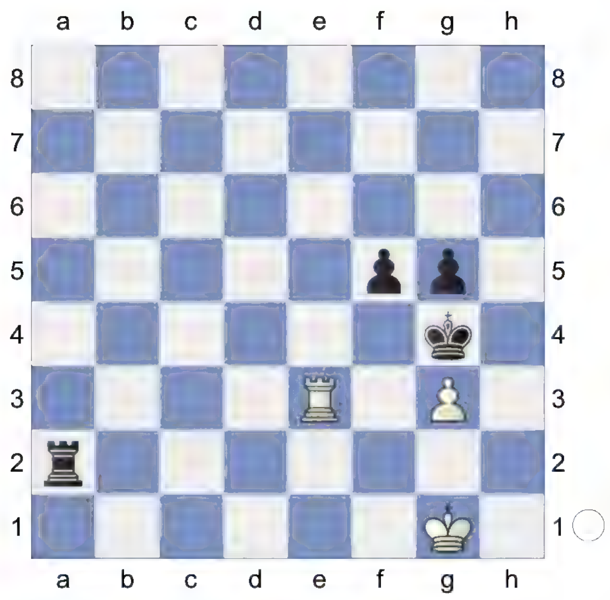
**48.Re3?** -8.19/35

[ 48.Rg6= -0.08/19 ]

**48...Rh2+** Black is clearly winning. **49.Kg1 Ra2**

(Diagram)

Hoping for ...Kh3. **50.Rb3 Kh3 51.Rf3 Ra5 52.Rb3 g4** ...Ra2 is the strong threat. **53.Re3 Ra1+ 54.Kf2 Kh2 55.Re5 Ra2+ 56.Kf1 Kxg3** Threatens to win with ...f4. **57.Rxf5 Ra1+ 58.Ke2 Kg2 59.Rf2+ Kh3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/ Black=0.27 (precise)
**0-1**



**D24**

☐ **Cuenca Jimenez,Jose Fernando**
■ **Kosteniuk,Alexandra** **2536**
Chessable Masters Play In rapid (1)
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3** 10.Qd2 injects fresh life into this line.10.Dd2 bringt frisches Leben in diese Variante. **10...0-0 11.Qc1 Ba6N**

[ 11...Nb4 12.Rd1 Bb7 13.Ne1 *( 13.Na3 Nd3 14.Bxd3 Bxf3 15.gxf3 cxd3 16.Rxd3 c5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 13...N4d5 14.Bxc4 Nxe3 15.fxe3 Bg5 16.b3 Nd5 17.Bxd5 Qxd5 18.Nc3 Qc6 19.Nf3 Bh6 20.Re1 f6 21.Qc2 f5 22.Rac1 Qd7 23.Na4 Bxf3 24.gxf3 f4 25.Qxc7 Qxc7 26.Rxc7 1-0 (51) Nachtsheim,F (2558)-11.e5 ♘d5 12. ♘c5 9431 (2550) ROM-chT Romania 1994 (8.8) ]

[ 11...Bb7 12.b3 cxb3 13.axb3 a6 14.Nc3 Nb4 15.Rd1 N6d5 16.Na4 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Rb8 18.Nc5 Bd5 19.Kh1 Rb6 20.Ne1 Qa8 21.Bf3 Bxf3 22.Nxf3 Rb5 23.Qc4 Bxc5 24.dxc5 Nc6 25.Qc2 h6 26.Ra4 ½-½ (41) 6.Sc3 (2281)-Koralek (2359) corr 92/203 2004 (4.2) ]

**12.Nc3**

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Nb4∓ ]

**12...Nb4 13.Rd1 Nd3!N** A relevant novelty. Eine relevante Neuerung.

[Predecessor: 13...Rb8! 14.Nd2 *( 14.Ne4 Nd3 15.Bxd3 cxd3 16.Ne1 Nd7 17.f4 Qc8 18.Nxd3 Qb7 19.Nef2 Qd5 20.Rd2 Rfc8 21.Nd1 Bb7 22.Nc3 Qa5 23.a3 c5 24.dxc5 Nxc5 25.Nxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 27.Kh1 h6 28.Qg1 Qxg1+* ↑-↑ (57) Kiselev,A (2414)-14. ♕d2 --- 14427 (2502) Mutxamel 5th 2023 (6) *)* 14...Qd7 15.Nde4 Kh8 16.a3 Nd3 17.Qd2 And now b3! would win. Nd5 18.b4 f5 19.exf6 gxf6 20.Nxd5 exd5 0-1 (59) Lamard,G (2480)-Erigaisi,A (2597) Guimaraes 2021 ]

**14.Bxd3 cxd3 15.Ne1 Nc4 16.Nxd3**

[ 16.Rxd3 Rb8 17.Bf4 Rxb2= *( 17...Nxb2 18.Rg3= )*]

**16...Rb8 17.b3** 0.83/21

[ ⌓17.Rb1 1.25/25 ]

**17...Ba3± 18.Qc2 Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qg5 20.Nf4 c5 21.Nb1!**

[ 21.Ne4 Qf5 22.dxc5 Qxe5-+ ]

**21...Bb4** aiming for ...cxd4. **22.a3 Ba5 23.Qxc5 Qg4** 1.27/21

[ 23...Bb6⩲ 0.40/21 24.Qc1 Bb7 ]

**24.Nd2 Bb6** 1.54/19

[Black should try 24...Bxd2 1.00/21 25.Rxd2 Rxb3 ]

**25.Qc3 g5** 2.42/21

[ 25...f6± 1.47/22 26.Nc4 Bxc4 27.Qxc4 Rfc8 28.Qxe6+ Qxe6 29.Nxe6 Rc3 30.exf6 gxf6 ]

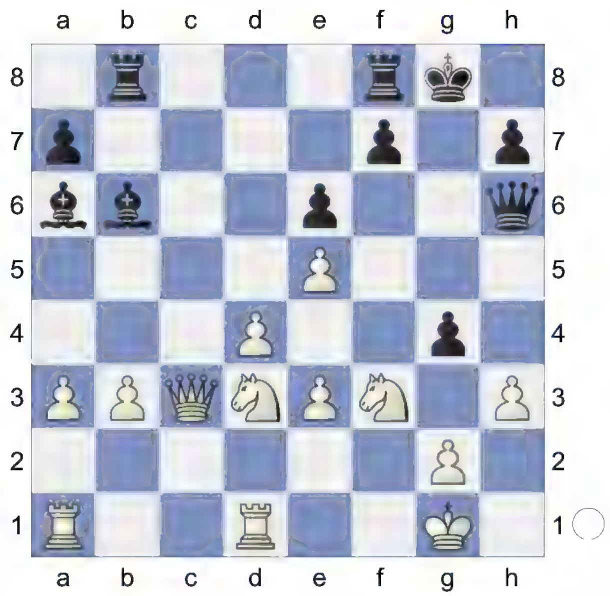
**26.h3** 1.19/20

[ 26.Ne4!+- 2.42/21 Strongly threatening Nf6+. Bd8 27.Nf2 ( *27.h3 Qh4±* Pin )]

**26...Qh4 27.Nf3** 0.26/19

[ 27.Nd3± 1.15/25 ]

**27...Qh6!= 28.Nd3 g4!**



Discovered Attack **29.hxg4** Black must now prevent Nc5. **29...Qxe3+ 30.Kh2 Rfc8 31.Qd2 Qxd2 32.Rxd2 Rc3 33.Nf4 Rxb3 34.Nh5 Rc8 35.Nf6+ Kg7 36.Kg3 h6 37.a4 Rc4 38.d5 Be3 39.Rdd1** Hoping for dxe6. **39...Bf4+** A strong pair of Bishops. **40.Kh3** -1.02/21

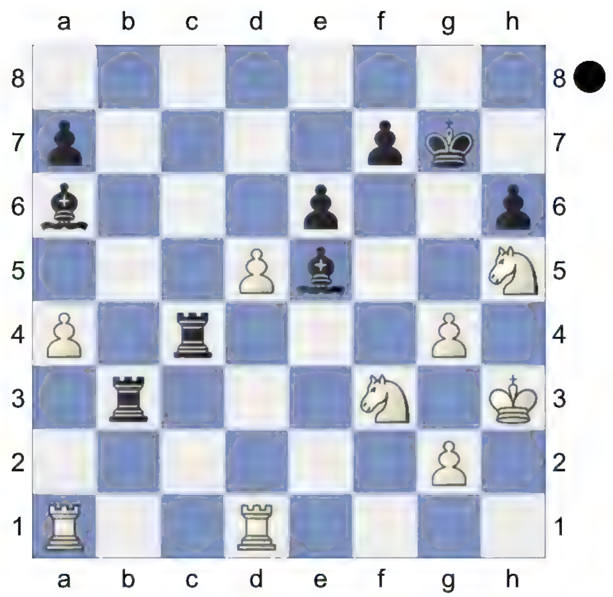
[ 40.Kh4= 0.00/21 keeps the balance. exd5 41.Rxd5 ]

**40...Bxe5∓ 41.Nh5+**

(Diagram)

White is weak on the dark squares **41...Kf8!** Black is much more active. **42.dxe6?** -3.58/19

[ 42.Rab1∓ -1.20/18 Rxb1 43.Rxb1 ]



**42...Bxa1-+**

[ Worse is 42...fxe6 43.Rd8+ Ke7 44.Rad1= ]

**43.Rxa1 fxe6** ...Bb7 would now be deadly. **44.Rd1** -4.33/21

[ ⌓44.Re1 -3.03/16 ]

**44...Ke7**

[ Don't take 44...Rxa4 45.Re1-+ ]

**45.Kg3 Bb7** Black is clearly winning.

[ But not 45...Rxa4 46.Rh1-+ ]

**46.a5 Rcc3 47.Rf1 e5** Dodges Nf4. Quite a comeback for Black. Weighted Error Value: White=0.30/ Black=0.14 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Bernadskiy,Vitaliy** **2619**

■ **Chen,Qi B** **2493**

Sunway Formentera op 2nd (4) 21.04.23

*[Kitty Kat]*

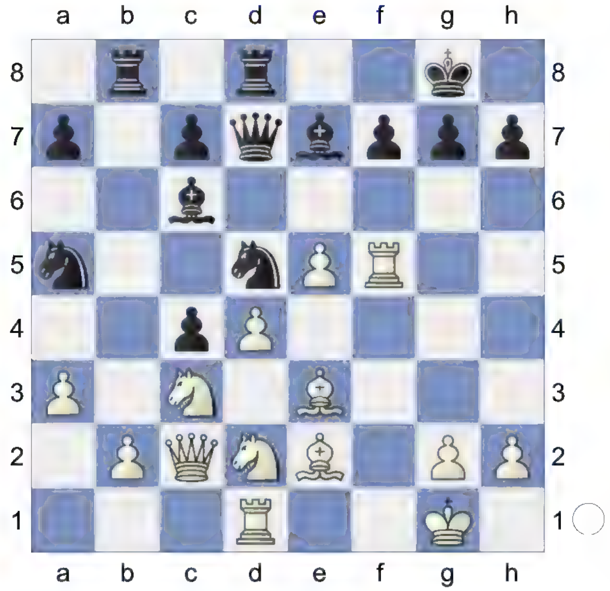
D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5** aiming for ...a6. **7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3** 10.Qd2 is the modern continuation. 10.Dd2 ist die moderne Fortsetzung. **10...0-0 11.a3!?** An interesting side line. Eine interessante Nebenvariante. **11...Qd7**

[ 11...Rb8 12.Rc1 Ba6 13.Nc3 Na5 14.Qc2 h6 15.Ne4 Nd5 16.Nfd2 c5 17.dxc5 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qd5 19.Nxc4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Qxe5 22.b4 f5 23.Nf2 Bg5 24.e4 Bxc1 25.Rxc1 Qf4 26.exf5 0-1 (40) 6.♘bd2 ♗b7 7.e4 d5 (2297)-Buerger,A (2186) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (4) ]

**12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qc2 Na5 14.Rad1N Rab8 15.Nd2 Bc6N**

[Predecessor: 15...Rfd8 16.f4 Bc6 17.f5 -0.51/21 ( White should play *17.Bf3=* 0.00/20 ) 17...exf5!∓ 18.Rxf5 And now e6! would win. Nd5 0.73/21 ( *18...Na4!=* -0.27/22 *19.Rxf7 Rxb2* )



19.Nxd5!± Bxd5 20.Rdf1 -0.01/21 ( *20.Rf2!±* 0.58/21 ) 20...Qc6? 1.58/20 (Better is *20...Be6=* -0.01/21 *21.R5f2 Nb3* ) 21.Bf3± f6? 4.21/19 0-1 (78) Rasulov,V (2454)-Maghsoodloo,P (2716) Chess.com INT 2022

( *21...Bxf3±* 1.36/20 *22.R5xf3 Rf8* )]

**16.Nde4 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Na4 20.Bd2 Nb3 21.Be3**

[But not 21.Rxc4 Nxd2 22.Nxd2 Rxb2 23.Rxa4 ( *23.Rd1 Nb6∓* ) 23...Rxd2= ]

[Stronger than 21.Bxc4 Nxd4 22.Rcc1 Rxb2∓ ( *22...Nxb2 23.Ba6∓* )]

**21...Na5 22.Rb1** Bd2! would now be deadly. **22...Rb7 23.Bd2 Nb3 24.Rxc4 Nb6 25.Rc3 Nd5!** A dynamic duo of knights. **26.Rd3 Nxd2 27.Nxd2** Threatening Nc4. **27...Nf4! 28.Re3** With the idea Bf3. **28...Nxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Rd8! 30.Re4 c5 31.Kf1 Rxd4** 0.63/25

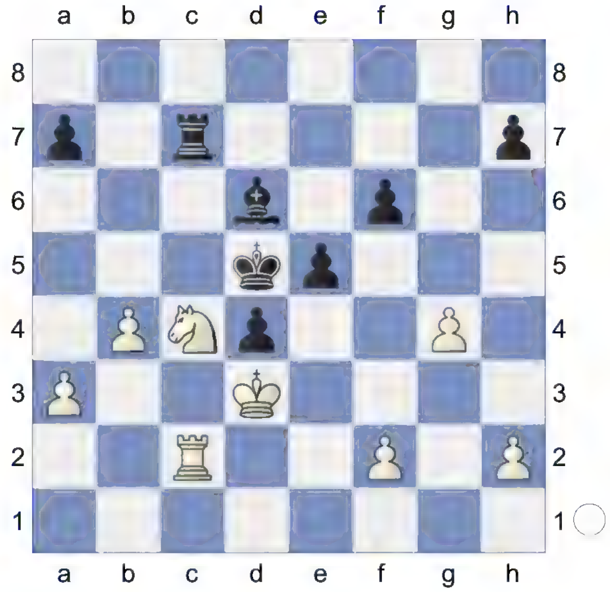
[ 31...cxd4= 0.00/20 32.g3 h5 ]

**32.Rxd4± cxd4=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **33.Ke2 f6 34.exf6** 0.07/22

[ 34.Kd3± 0.56/23 might be stronger. ]

**34...gxf6 35.Kd3 e5 36.b4 Rc7** Prevents Rc1. **37.Nc4 Kf7 38.Rc1** Nxe5+! is the strong threat. **38...Ke6 39.g4 Bd6 40.Rc2** Black must now prevent Nxd6. **40...Kd5** 5.50/25

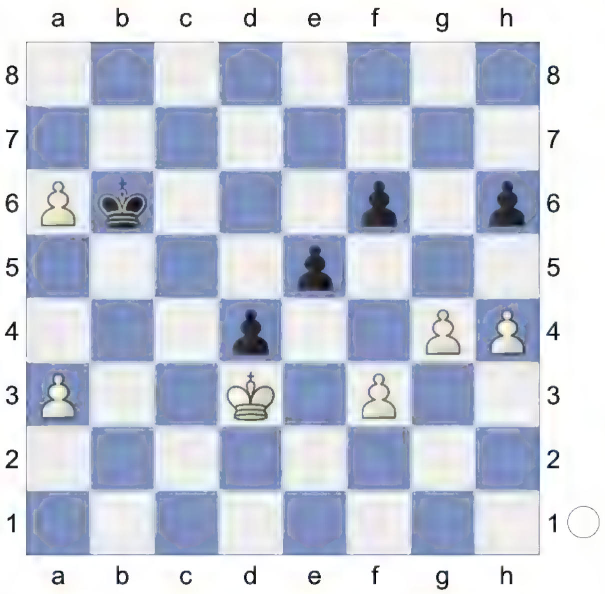
[ 40...Rf7= 0.00/26 ]



**41.Nxd6!+-** White is clearly winning. **41...Rxc2 42.Kxc2 Kxd6** KP-KP **43.Kd3 Kd5 44.f3 a5** 10.77/26

[ ⌓44...Kc6 4.72/23 ]

**45.bxa5 Kc6 46.h4 h6 47.a6 Kb6**



**48.f4!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.24 (precise)

**1-0**

**D24**

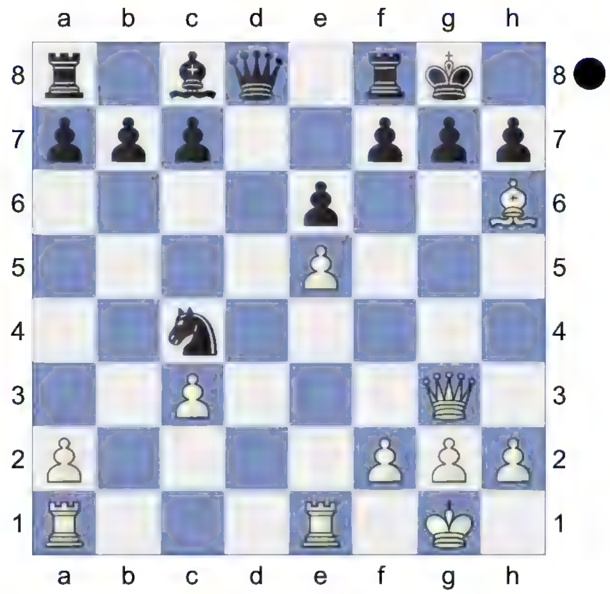
☐ **Topalov,Veselin 2760**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano 2823**
Saint Louis 130/145 2016
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

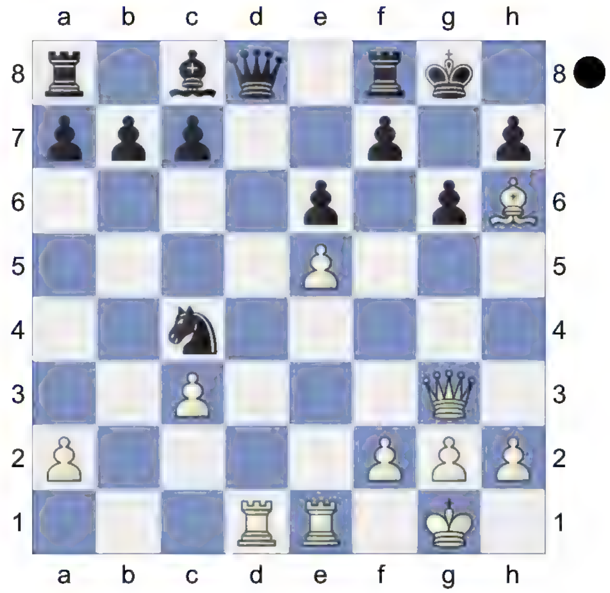
**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.d4 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Bd6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Qd3 Nd7 11.Ne5** -0.30/20

[ 11.Bg5 0.11/21 deserves consideration. Be7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.a4 ]

**11...Bxe5= 12.dxe5** aiming for Qg3. **12...Nb6 13.Qg3** -1.13/19 **Nxc4∓ 14.Bh6**



**g6** ...f5! would now be deadly. **15.Rad1**



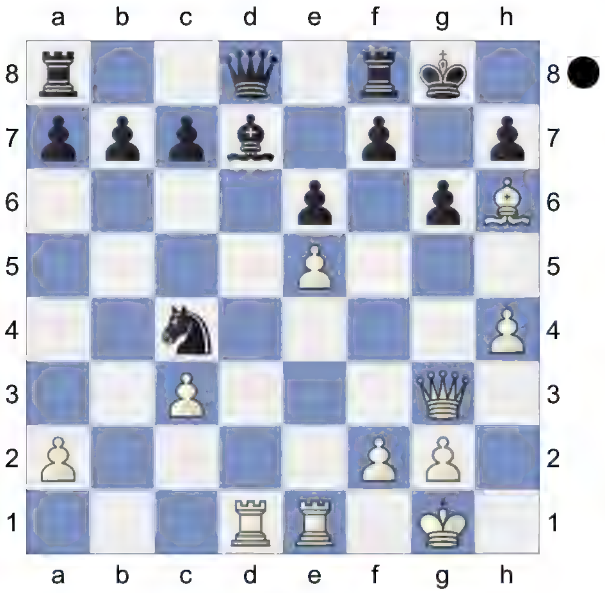
**Bd7!** White must now prevent ...f5! **16.h4**

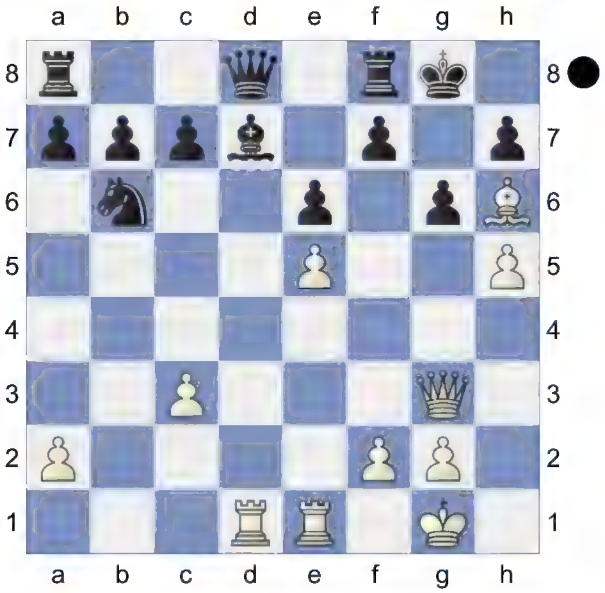
(Diagram)

**Nb6! 17.h5**

(Diagram)

**Qe7! 18.Rd4**





[ 18.Bg5 Qc5 ]

**18...Be8 19.Bg5 f6** 0.31/23

[Black should play 19...Qc5∓ -1.15/21 ...Nd5 is the strong threat. 20.Bh6 f5 ]

**20.exf6⩲ Qc5** 1.58/19

[ 20...Qf7= 0.15/20 ]

**21.Rxe6±** And now Re7 would win. White has more active pieces. **21...Qf5** 2.01/18

[ ⌓21...Bf7 1.61/19 22.hxg6 Bxg6 *( 22...Bxe6? 23.gxh7+ Kf7 24.Be3+- )*]

**22.Re5+- Qb1+ 23.Kh2** Strongly threatening Re7. **23...gxh5?** 5.10/22 Loses the game.

[ 23...c5± 1.32/17 is a better chance. 24.Rh4 *( 24.Rxc5 Nd7= )* 24...Nd7 ]

**24.Bh6+ Bg6 25.Bxf8**

[ 25.Rxh5 Rf7= *( 25...Rxf6 26.Qxc7* Double Attack *)*]

**25...Rxf8 26.Qg5** White threatens Qh6 and mate.

[ 26.Rxh5 Rxf6 27.a4 Rf7± ]

**26...Qxa2 27.Re7** Prevents Qf7

**27...Qxf2 28.Rg7+**

[Weaker is 28.Rxc7 Qxf6 *( 28...Rxf6? 29.Qh6+- )* 29.Qg3 *( 29.Qxf6 Rxf6 30.Rd8+ Rf8∓ )* 29...Rf7 30.Rxf7 Kxf7∓ *( 30...Qxf7 31.Rd8+ Kg7 32.Qe5+ Kh6 33.Qe3+ Kg7 34.Qd4+ Kh6 35.Qe3+ Kg7 36.Qd4+ Kh6 37.Qe3+= )*]

**28...Kh8 29.Rxg6** White wants to mate with f7. Decoy

[Inferior is 29.Rxc7 Qf5= *( 29...Qxf6 30.Qxf6+* Remove Defender *Rxf6 31.Rd8+; 29...Qxf6 30.Qxf6+* Remove Defender *Rxf6 31.Rd8+ )*]

**29...hxg6N 30.Qh6+ Kg8 31.Qg7#**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.74

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **So,Wesley** **2773**

■ **Kamsky,Gata** **2678**

USA-ch Saint Louis (1) 14.04.2016

*[Roiz,Michael, MH]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6**

**2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+**

[ 8...Qa5 ]

**9.bxc3 Qa5** The solid Breyer system is one of Gata's main weapons against 1. e4, so it couldn't come as a real surprise for Wesley.

**10.Bb5+ Bd7**

[ 10...Nbd7 ]

**11.Bxf6 gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.Rc1 ]

**12.Qb3 a6**

[ 12...0-0 13.0-0 Nc6 14.a4 Rfd8 15.Rad1 ]

**13.Be2 Nc6 14.0-0 Qc7**

[ 14...0-0 15.Rad1 Qc7 16.Qb2 ]

**15.Qa3** The main idea behind this move is provoking h7-h6, which exposes the kingside structure.

[ 15.Rab1 ]

[ 15.Rad1

A) 15...Rc8 16.Qb2 -0.13/19 *( 16.c4± 0.41/23 )* 16...Nxd4= 17.cxd4 Qc2;

B) 15...0-0 ]

**15...Rc8**

[ 15...0-0-0 1.12/22 15...Rc8 0.34 16.Rab1 ]

**16.Rad1**

[ 16.Rfd1 Na5 17.c4 Qc5 18.Qg3 Ke7 *( 18...Nc6* 1.47/22 18...Ke7 0.79 *19.Nb3 )* 19.Nb3 0.00/23 *( 19.Nf3±* 0.97/20 *Ba4 20.Re1 )* 19...Nxb3!= 20.axb3 ]

[ 16.Rab1 is interesting. Rg8 17.Rfe1 Na5 18.Nf3 ]

**16...Na5**

[ 16...Qa5 17.Qb2 ]

[ 16...Ne5 17.f4 Nc4 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Rf3 Qc5 ]

[ 16...Rg8 17.Rfe1 Ne5 ]

**17.Rd3** White is slightly better.

[ 17.Qc1

A) 17...e5 1.48/22 17...h5 0.46 18.Nf5 0.75/19 *( ⌓18.Nc2!* 1.48/22 *)* 18...Bxf5± 19.exf5 Qxc3 1.70/21 *( 19...Nc4±* 0.79/19 *)* 20.Qh6+- Ke7 21.Bh5 0.77/23 *( ⌓21.Rd3* 1.41/22 *Qc7 22.Bh5 )* 21...Qc4 22.Rc1 0.42/23 *( 22.f4±* 0.91/22 *Nc6 23.Rfe1 )* 22...Qa4? 2.65/23 *( 22...Qh4!±* 0.42/23 *)* 23.Qg7+- Qxa2 24.Ra1 0.45/22 *( 24.Rxc8!+-* 1.92/24 *Rxc8 25.g4 )* 24...Qc4!± 25.Rxa5 Rd1 is the strong threat. Rcg8? 5.61/25 *( 25...Rhg8=* 0.27/18 *26.Qxh7 Rh8 27.Qxf7+ Qxf7 28.Bxf7 Kxf7 )* 26.Qh6?? -3.48/20 *( 26.Rxe5++-* 5.61/25 *fxe5 27.Qxe5+ Kd7 28.Rd1+ Kc8 29.Bxf7 Rxg2+* Decoy *30.Kxg2*

*Qg4+ 31.Qg3 Qxg3+ 32.hxg3 )* 26...Rxg2+!-+ 27.Kxg2 Rg8+;

**B)** 17...h6⩲ 0.55/22;

**C)** 17...Ke7 1.48/18 18.Qh6± Bc6? 4.74/20 *( 18...Rcg8± 1.48/21 )* 19.Nxe6+- Qe5 20.Nd4 Rcg8 21.f4 Qc5 22.Kh1 Rg6 23.Qh3 Bxe4 24.Bf3 Bxf3 25.Rxf3 Qc7 26.Nf5+ Kf8 27.Rfd3 Nc6 28.Rd7 9.18/18 *( ⌓28.Qe3* #12/16 *Rg5 29.fxg5 h6 30.gxh6 Rh7 31.Rd7 Qc8 32.Rd8+* Decoy, Back Rank *Qxd8 33.Rxd8+* Back Rank *Nxd8 34.Qe7+ Kg8 35.Qxd8# )*]

**17...Qc5?!** 0.69/19 Finally Gata deviates from the main theoretical paths, but this passive move is a serious concession.

[ 17...Nc4 18.Qc1 Black must now prevent Qh6. Ke7 19.Rg3 Qa5 ]

[ 17...Nc4= 0.25/20 deserves consideration. 18.Qc1 h5 ]

**18.Qc1⩲** A novelty. Opening up the a-file was connected with a concrete idea.

**18...Rg8** 0.96/18

[ 18...Ke7? 2.08/24 18...h6 0.49

**A)** 19.f4?? -2.14/25 19.Rfd1 1.90 Bb5 20.Re3 Bxe2 21.Rxe2 Qxc3 22.Nc2 Rhd8 23.h3 -2.34/22 *( 23.f5∓* -1.52/20 is a better defense. *e5 24.Rf3 Qc5+ 25.Kh1 )* 23...Rd3 24.Kh2 -2.56/20 *( 24.Qb1* -1.83/21 keeps fighting.*)* 24...Nc4-+ 25.Qb1? -5.14/20 *( 25.Rff2* -2.92/21 was worth a try.*)* 25...Nd2-+ 26.Qxb7+ Rc7;

**B)** 19.Kh1 Rhg8 20.f4;

**C)** 19.Rfd1! Ba4 1.15/18 *( 19...Rhd8+-* 1.88/21 *)* 20.Nb3 0.02/21 *( 20.e5!±* 1.15/18 *Bxd1 21.exf6+ Ke8 22.Qxd1 )* 20...Nxb3= 21.axb3 Bxb3 22.Rd7+ Ke8 23.R1d4 *( 23.R1d2!? )* 23...e5 ]

[ 18...h5⩲ 0.58/21 ]

**19.g3** 0.28/22

[ 19.Qh6

**A)** 19...Qg5 1.27/22 19...Nc4 0.91 20.Qh3 e5 21.Nf5 Bxf5 22.exf5 Qf4? 4.39/20 *( 22...Ke7±* 1.27/18 is tougher. *)* 23.Rfd1;

**B)** ⌓19...Nc4 0.89/22;

**C)** 19...Ke7 1.48/17 20.Rfd1!±

**C1)** 20...Ba4? 3.55/18 20…Rcd8 1.60 21.Nxe6! fxe6? #10/21 *( 21...Kxe6+-* 3.26/19 *22.e5 Qxe5 )* 22.Qxh7+ 10.89/20 *( ⌓22.Rd7+* #10/21 *Bxd7 23.Qxh7+ Kf8 24.Rxd7 Rxg2+* Decoy *25.Kxg2 Qg5+ 26.Kh1 Qc1+ 27.Bd1 )* 22...Ke8 23.Rd7 11.98/20 *( ⌓23.Qxg8+* #5/18 *Ke7 24.Qg7+ Ke8 25.Rh3 Bxd1 26.Rh8+ Qf8 27.Rxf8# )*;

**C2)** 20...Rcd8± 1.47/20 is a better chance.;

**C3)** 20...Rc7? 4.70/19 21.Qxh7+- Rgc8 6.17/22 *( 21...Qg5 22.Rg3; ⌓21...Rf8* 4.39/18 *22.e5 Qxe5 )* 22.e5+-

**C3a)** 22...Qxe5 23.Re3 Qg5⇄ 1-0 Ni Hua (2691)-Wagner,D (2583) Karlsruhe GER 2016 The most popular continuations here are 24.Nf5+;

**C3b)** and 22...f5 23.Qh4+ Ke8 24.Nxe6 11.64/17 *( ⌓24.Nxf5!* #14/20 *exf5 25.e6 Qe7 26.exd7+ Rxd7 27.Qh8+* Skewer *Qf8 28.Re3+* Deflection *Kd8 29.Qxf8+ Kc7 30.Rxd7+ Kb8 31.Re8* Back Rank *)* 24...fxe6 25.Bh5+;

**C3c)** 22...fxe5⇄ 1/2 Vachier Lagrave,M (2773)-Adams,M

(2737) London ENG 2015 Possibly, 23.Qh4+!? can pose Black more problems. and 23...Ke8 *( 23...Kf8 24.Nxe6+ fxe6 25.Qf6+ Ke8 26.Bh5# )* 24.Nxe6 ]

[ 19.Qh6± 0.96/18 ]

**19...Nc4** 0.68/21

[ 19...Ke7 20.Rfd1 -0.03/18 *( 20.Qh6; 20.Rf3⩲* 0.36/22 *)* 20...Ba4= 21.Re1 ]

[ 19...e5⩲ 0.69/22 19...Ke7 0.29 Duda,J (2603)-Inarkiev,E (2680) Wroclaw POL 2014, with a serious space advantage in both cases.

**A)** 20.Nb3 Nxb3! 21.axb3 Bc6 1.80/20 *( 21...Ke7⩲* 0.70/21 *)*;

**B)** 20.Nf3± 0.69/22;

**C)** Instead, he should have chosen between 20.Nf5 0.22/20 20...Bxf5= 21.exf5 ]

[ 19...Rg6 20.Qc2 ]

[ 19...h5= 0.28/22 is superior. ]

**20.Qh6!?** 0.25/24 An aggressive idea, which was fully justified in the game!

[ 20.Nb3⩲ 0.68/21 is more appropriate. Qg5 21.Qxg5 fxg5 22.Rd4 ]

**20...Ne5?!** Perhaps, Gata had underestimated White's attacking resources, so he immediately accepted the challenge!

[ 20...Ke7↑ , then the same idea as in the game would work effectively. 21.f4 Inhibits Ne5. *(Or 21.Rb1 Bc6 22.Qh4 )* 21...e5 1.23/16 *( 21...Nd6=* 0.09/19 *)* 22.fxe5± Qxe5± 3.92/22 *( 22...fxe5?* 4.80/19 22...Nxe5 1.10 *23.Qf6+⩲; 22...Nxe5±* 1.00/20 *23.Qxf6+ Ke8 )* 23.Qxh7!? 0.03/24 also deserved serious attention: *( 23.Nf5++-* 3.92/22 *Kd8 24.Rd5 )* 23...Rh8 24.Nf5+! Bxf5 25.Qxf5 ]

**21.Re3** The last preparations...

[ 21.Qxh7? Ke7 22.Nb3 Qa3 23.Rxd7+ Nxd7-+ *( 23...Kxd7?! 24.f4= )*]

**21...Ke7** It's hard to believe, but this natural move is a decisive mistake!

**22.f4!**

[ 22.Qxh7? Rh8-+ ]

**22...Nc6**

[ 22...Nc4 1.65/22 22...Nc6 0.40 23.Bxc4 Qxc4 24.e5 ]

**23.Rd1**↑ White fights for an advantage.

[ 23.Qxh7? Rh8-+ *( 23...Nxd4? 24.Bh5-+; 23...Nxd4? 24.Bh5-+ )*]

**23...Qb6?** 1.76/18 This move loses the game for Black.

[ 23...e5! 24.fxe5 fxe5? 4.08/20 (Better is *24...Nxe5⩲* 0.36/20 *25.a4 Qa5 )* 25.Nb3+- Qa3 26.Qh4+⇄ Honestly speaking, a stronger move was 26...Ke8 and now if 27.Qxh7 ]

[ 23...e5!= 0.23/18 24.fxe5 Nxe5 ]

**24.e5!+-** The lack of harmony in Black's camp makes the attack decisive.

[ 24.Qxh7? too greedy. Rh8 25.Qg7 Rcg8-+ ]

**24...Rg6**

[ 24...fxe5

**A)** 25.Nf5+ 0.01/21 25.fxe5 1.33 Kd8 0.85/19 *( 25...exf5 26.Qd6+ Ke8 27.Qxd7+ Kf8≌* offers White sufficient compensation, but not more. At the same time, the correct *28.Qxc8+! Kg7 29.Qxf5 Qxe3+ 30.Kf1!* would maintain the balance, since now the same sac is less effective: *exf4! 31.Rd7; 25...exf5=* 0.01/21 remains equal. *26.Qd6+ Ke8 27.Qxd7+ Kf8 28.Qxc8+ Kg7 29.Qxf5 Qxe3+ 30.Kf1 exf4 )* 26.Qf6+ 0.28/24 ( White should try *26.Kg2±* 0.85/19 aiming for Red3! *Kc7 27.fxe5 )* 26...Kc7= 27.Rxd7+ Kb8!+- *( 27...Kxd7??* 4.74/20

27...Kb8 0.06 *28.Qxf7+⩲* White's positional advantage is obvious, but a complex struggle lies ahead. *Kd8 29.Qxg8+ Kc7 30.Qxe6 )* He had to play 28.Nd4! -1.36/20 ( White should play *28.fxe5!=* 0.22/23 *exf5 29.Qh6 )* 28...exd4∓ 29.cxd4;

B) 25.fxe5 Hoping for Bh5. 25...Qc5? 3.67/20 *( 25...Nxd4* 1.63/18 was called for. *26.cxd4 Ba4 )* 26.Rf1 2.14/19 *( ⌓26.Bh5* 3.67/20 Intending Qf6+ and mate. *Nd8 27.Nb3 )* 26...Rcf8+- 27.Bh5 ]

**25.Qxh7 fxe5**

[ 25...Nxd4? 3.15/20 25...fxe5 1.62 26.cxd4 ]

**26.fxe5 Nxd4** Gata was able to exchange one pair of bishops, but the awkward placement of his rook invites new troubles... **27.cxd4**

[But not 27.Rxd4?! Rcg8 28.Qh4+ Kf8+- ]

**27...Be8** 4.09/20

[ 27...Ba4 3.67/21 27...Qb2 2.47 White wins in beautiful style: 28.Rf1 Rf8 29.Qh4+ ]

[ ⌓27...Qb2 2.76/19 28.Rf1 Rf8 29.Qh4+ Ke8 ]

**28.Rb3!** Black loses the whole rook.

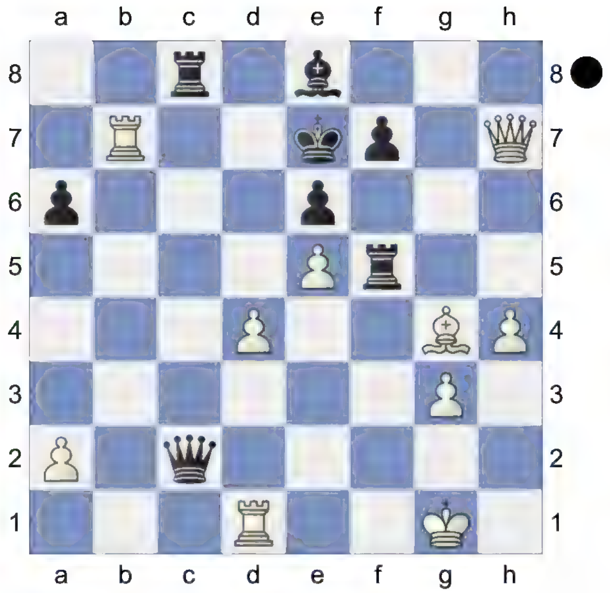
**28...Qa7** 5.79/18

[ 28...Qc7 29.Bh5

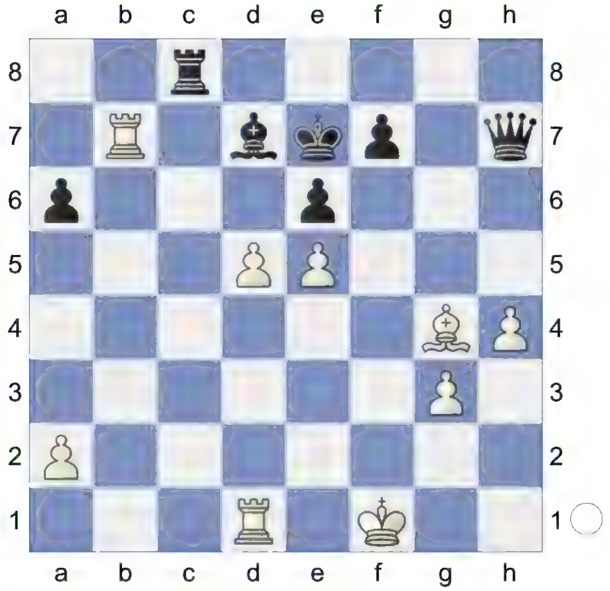
A) 29...Rg5? 4.41/21 29...Qc2 2.50

A1) 30.h4 2.22/19 30.Rf3 4.28 Rf5 Strongly threatening ...Ba4. 31.Bg4? -0.31/20 ( White has to play *31.Bf3!+-* 2.20/20 Threatens to win with Be4! *Qc2 32.d5 )* 31...Qc2!∓ 32.Rxb7++- -1.24/26 *( 32.Bf3!∓* -0.42/22 *Bb5 33.g4 )*

(Diagram)



32...Bd7? 2.95/23 *( 32...Kd8!∓* -1.24/26 keeps the pressure on. ( -> ...Rc3! ) *33.Bxf5 Qxd1+ 34.Kh2 exf5 35.Qxf5 Rc2+ 36.Kh3 Qh1+ 37.Kg4 Qxb7 38.Qxc2 Bd7+ 39.Kf4 Qh1 )* 33.d5!+- After 33...Rf1+ 34.Kxf1 White threatens d6+ and mate. Qxh7



35.dxe6!;

A2) 30.Bf3 Bb5 31.Qh4 Rcg8 32.Qf4;

B) 29...Qc2+- 30.Rxb7+ Kd8?

6.40/19 *( 30...Kf8* And now ... Rxg3+! would win. *31.Qh8+ Rg8 32.Qf6; 30...Kf8* 3.01/17 *31.Qh8+ Rg8 32.Qh6+ Rg7 )* 31.Rxf7 ]

[ 28...Qc6 3.30/22 29.Qh8 *( 29.Bf3 Qc4+- )* 29...b5 ]

**29.Bh5 Rg5 30.Bf3**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.18 (very precise) /Black=0.61is completely hopeless too.

[ 30.Bf3 Bc6 *( 30...Bb5 31.Qh4 Rcg8 32.a4 Bc6 33.Bxc6 bxc6+- 34.Rdb1 )* 31.Qh4 Rcg8+- 32.Bxc6 bxc6 33.Rdb1 ]

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Suleymenov,Alisher 2493**

■ **Pichot,Alan 2641**

Tashkent President op 2nd (8) 11.09.22

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5** ...a6 would now be deadly. **7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Bb7 11.Qc2 Na5 12.Rd1 Qd7 13.Nc3** **f5N** Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.

[ 13...Bc6 14.h4 Rb8 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) ]

[ 13...Rb8 14.h4 h6 15.Rh3 Bc6 16.Nd2 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Kd7 20.h5 Rhc8 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f4 Na4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Nxb2 25.Rc2 c6 26.Bc1 Na4 27.f5 Nb6 28.fxe6+ 1-0 (53) Move 10 Sidelines (2544)-6.♕d2 ♗a6 7.b3 52278 (2541) Deutschland 155/73 2023 ]

**14.exf6 gxf6** **15.Ne4N** -0.28/22

[Vorgänger: 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.Nd2 Rhg8 17.Bf3 Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Qc6 ( -> ...Rxg2+!) 19.Qe2 Nd5 1.03/21 Against Bf4 *( 19...h5±* 0.48/23 *)* 20.g3 Bd6 21.Bd2 0.68/20 1-0 (49) Martirosyan,H (2621)-Ivic,V (2606) Warsaw 2021 *(* White should try *21.Ne4±* 1.11/19 *)*]

[ 15.0-0± 0.51/25 ]

**15...0-0-0** 0.31/19

[ 15...Qa4= -0.28/22 16.Qb1 Nd5 ]

**16.Nc5± Bxc5 17.dxc5 Qa4 18.Nd4** -0.67/21

[ 18.Rxd8+= 0.29/21 Kxd8 19.Qb1 ]

**18...Qxc2∓**

[ 18...Bxg2? 19.Rg1 Rxd4 *( 19...Qxc2 20.Nxc2 Be4 21.cxb6+- )* 20.Qxa4 Nxa4 21.Bxd4+- ]

**19.Nxc2 Na4**

[ 19...Bxg2? 20.Rg1 Rxd1+ 21.Bxd1+- ]

**20.0-0** -1.55/22

[Better is 20.Bd4 -0.77/21 ]

(Diagram)

**20...Nxb2** -0.96/21 Black is more active.

[ ⌓20...Be4! -1.55/22 21.Nb4 Nxb2 22.Rxd8+ Rxd8 ]

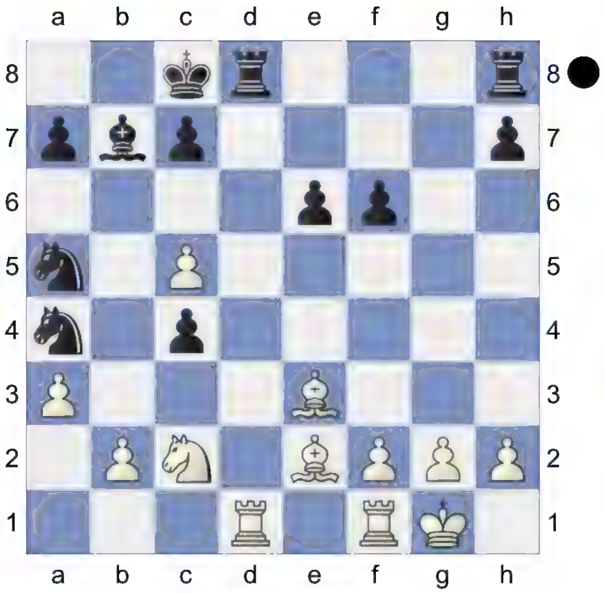
**21.Rb1** -1.35/22

[ ⌓21.Rd4 -0.96/21 ]

**21...Na4** -0.92/23

[ ⌓21...Nd3 -1.35/22 22.f3 Nb3 ]

**22.Bh5?** -2.62/21 This costs White the



game.

[ 22.Rb4∓ -0.92/23 Nc3 23.Bh5 ]

**22...Nb3-+ 23.Bf7 Bd5**

[ 23...Nbxc5 24.Bxc5 Nxc5 25.Rb5= ]

**24.Nd4 Nxd4**

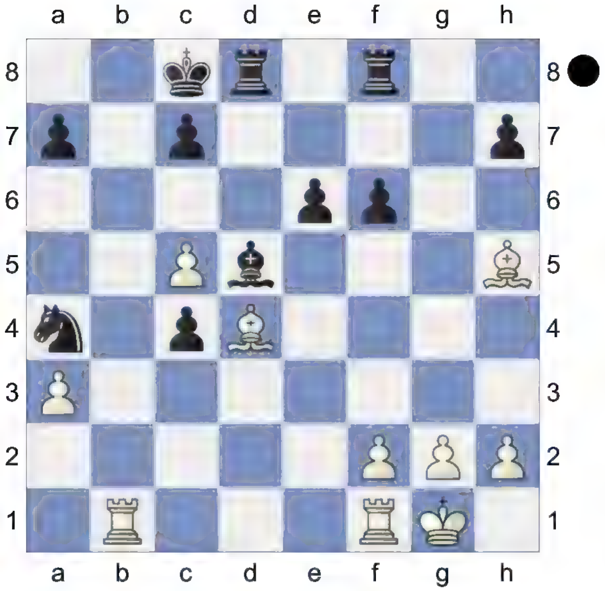
[Don't play 24...Nbxc5 25.Rb4 ]

[ 24...Naxc5 25.Ne2 ]

**25.Bxd4 Rhf8**

[ 25...e5 26.Bxd5 Rxd5 27.Be3= ]

**26.Bh5**



**Bxg2!** Discovered Attack **27.Kxg2** aiming for Rfd1. **27...Rxd4 28.c6 Rg8+ 29.Kh1 Rg5 30.Bf7 Nc5 31.Rb4 Kd8** Black is clearly winning. **32.Rb8+ Ke7 33.Bg8 Nd3**
Weighted Error Value: White=0.50/Black=0.10 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **4.Nf3 g6 5.Nbd2** **2727**
■ **Gouasdoue,Vincent** **2472**
Teheran zt 3.1 2022
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 0-0N**

[ 10...Bb7 11.Qc2 Na5 12.Nc3 Qd7 13.Rd1 Rb8 14.h4

A) 14...Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 *( 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2 30.R3b2 Rxb2 31.Rxb2 a5* 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG email 2023 CT-2879 [John Watson] 0-1 (59)*)* 17...Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 c6_359 (2539) Sochi RUS 2022 200 Traps In The Opening [CCYB 5\161];

B) 14...h6 15.Rh3 Bc6 16.Nd2 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Kd7 20.h5 Rhc8 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f4 Na4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Nxb2 25.Rc2 Move 10 Sidelines (2544)-6.Qd2 Ba6 7.b3_52278 (2541) Deutschland 155/73 2022 200

Traps In The Opening [CCYB 5\ 161] 1-0 (53) ]

**11.Qc2 Rb8 12.Nc3**

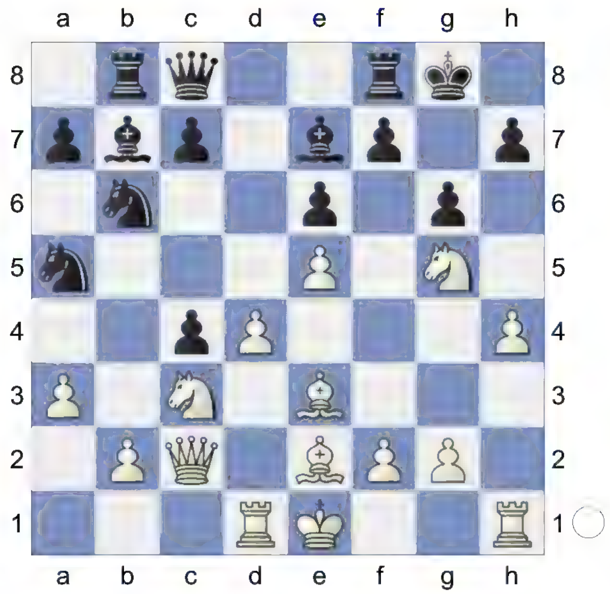
[Much weaker is 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Qxc4 Qd7= ]

**12...Na5 13.Rd1 Bb7 14.h4 Qc8?** 1.71/22

[ 14...Bxf3= 0.00/21 15.Bxf3 Nd5 ]

**15.Ng5+- g6** 2.33/20

[ 15...Bxg5± 1.27/21 16.hxg5 g6 ]



**16.h5!** Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.36

**D24**

☐ **Istratescu,Andrei** **2565**

■ **Nisipeanu,Liviu Dieter** **2674**

Bucharest Kings rapid 12th (6.2)

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 0-0 11.Rc1**

[ 11.Nc3 Bb7 12.Qb1 Rb8 13.Ne4 Nb4 14.Nfg5 g6 15.Rc1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Ba6 17.Nf3 Na4 18.Bxc4 Bxc4 19.Rxc4 Nxb2 20.Rc2 Nc4 21.Qd1 Nxd2 22.Qxd2 Kg7 23.Nc5 Qe8 24.Rac1 Rb6 25.h4 h5 0-1 (43) Lovik,L (2342)-4.h3 ♘f6 5. ♘f3 00 6. ♗e2 (2522) 6.bxc3 Bg7 7. Qa4+ Qd7 (5) ]

**11...Nb4N**

[ 11...Bb7 12.Nc3 ( *12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Rxc4 Qd5 14.Qa4 Ba6 15.Nxc7 Qxc4 16.Qxa6 Qxa6 17.Nxa6 Rac8* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 *)* 12...Qd7 13.Qc2 Nb4 14.Qb1 Rab8 15.Rcd1 N4d5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5 Quickstarter Guide-Vienna – Main Line 5.e4 #5 ]

[ 11...Ba6 12.Nc3 Rb8 13.Qd2 Qc8 14.Bg5 Bb4 15.Bf6 h6 16.Qf4 Re8 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Qf6+ Kf8 19.Qxh6+ Ke7 20.d5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5+ exd5 22.Qf6+ Kf8 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Qf6+ Kf8 25.Ng5 Nd8 26.Qh8+ 0-1 (52) Fischer,O (2400)-6.Sc3 (2281) corr 92/203 2004 (3.2) ]

**12.Nc3**

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Rxc4 Ba6± ]

**12...Bb7 13.Nd2 Qd7 14.b3** 0.10/20

[ 14.Bxc4?! Nxc4 15.Nxc4 Qc6‡ ]

[ 14.Nxc4± 0.73/23 aiming for Na5. Nxc4 15.Bxc4 ]

**14...cxb3= 15.Nxb3 Rad8** 0.52/22

[ 15...Rab8= 0.12/22 feels stronger. ]

**16.Na5** 0.04/20

[ 16.a3± 0.52/22 N4d5 17.Nxd5 Nxd5 18.Bd2 ]

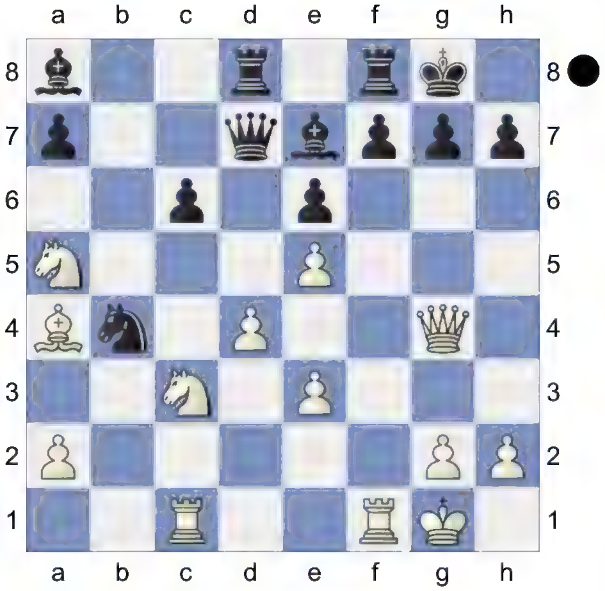
**16...Ba8→** White needs to defend precisely. **17.Bb5 c6 18.Ba4**

[ 18.Be2!? ]

**18...N6d5 19.Qg4** -0.63/19

[ 19.Ne4= 0.00/24 ]

**19...Nxe3!∓ 20.fxe3**

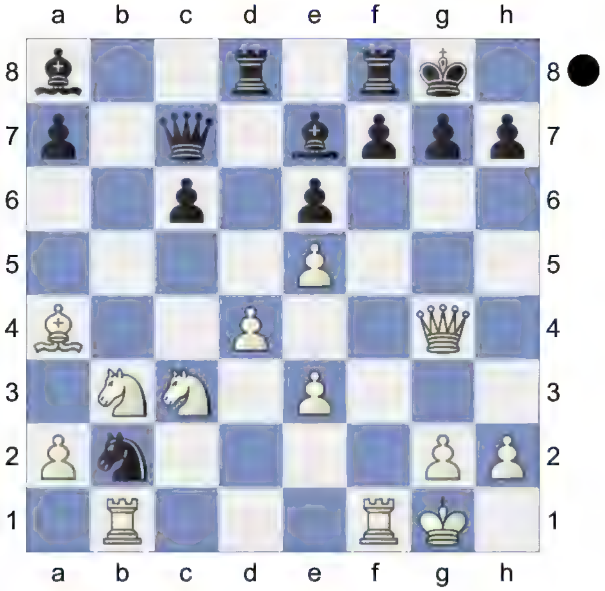


**Qc7** -0.07/22

[Better is 20...Qc8!∓ -0.71/25 And now ...Qa6 would win. 21.Nc4 Qa6 *( 21...c5 22.Nd6∓ )*]

**21.Nb3!= Nd3 22.Rcd1 Nb2 23.Rb1** -0.90/21

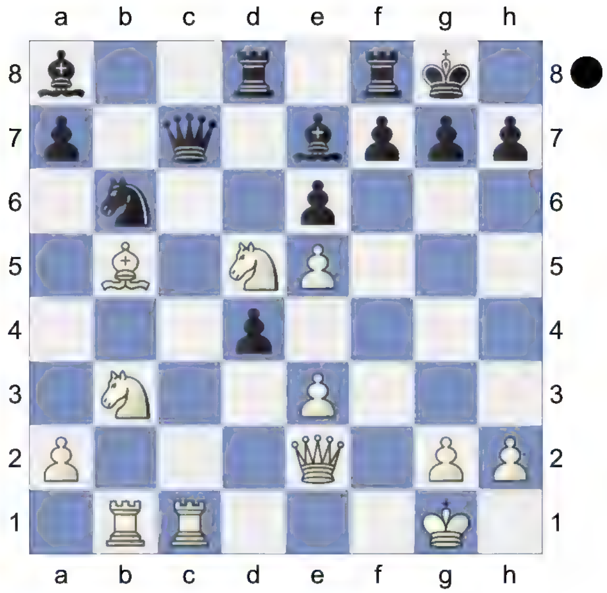
[ 23.Rc1!= 0.00/21 ]



**23...Nc4!∓ 24.Qe2 Nb6 25.Rfc1 c5** -0.67/18

[ 25...h6∓ -1.23/23 26.Nb5 Qd7 ]

**26.Bb5!∓ cxd4 27.Nd5**



Discovered Attack **27...Qxc1+ 28.Rxc1 Nxd5 29.exd4 Bg5 30.Rc2 Ne3 31.Rc3 Nxg2** Black is more active.

[ 31...Bxg2 32.Rxe3 Bxe3+ 33.Qxe3± ]

**32.Bc6 Nf4 33.Qg4** Strongly threatening Bxa8. **33...Rc8 34.Na5 Nd5** Really sharp! **35.Rg3** -2.51/20 This move loses the game for White.

[ 35.Rc5∓ -0.84/19 was the only chance. Be7 36.Rxd5 exd5 37.Qd7 ]

**35...Bh6-+ 36.Bxd5** -3.82/23

[ 36.Bxa8 -2.16/19 Rc1+ Zwischenzug 37.Kg2 Nf4+ *( 37...Rxa8? 38.Qe4-+ )* 38.Kf3 Rxa8 39.Nb3 Rc3+ 40.Ke4 ]

**36...Bxd5**

[Resist 36...Rc1+ 37.Kg2 Bxd5+ 38.Kh3-+ ]

**37.Nb3** White is weak on the light squares **37...Rc2 38.Rh3** -4.86/20

[ 38.Qh4 -3.15/17 was called for. Kh8 39.Qe7 ]

**38...Rxa2** Black is clearly winning. **39.Rxh6 Rg2+**

[But not 39...Bxb3 40.Rf6-+ ]

**40.Qxg2 Bxg2** Endgame. KRB-KRN **41.Rh4 Bd5 42.Nc5 Rb8 43.Rh3 Rb4**

**44.Rd3 a5 45.Kf2 a4 46.Ke3 g5 47.Ra3 Bc6 48.Ra1 Kg7 49.Rg1 Kg6 50.h4 h6 51.hxg5 hxg5 52.Rf1 Rb2** ...a3 is the strong threat. **53.Ra1 Rb4 54.Rf1 Rb8 55.Kd2 a3 56.Kc3 a2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.11 (very precise)

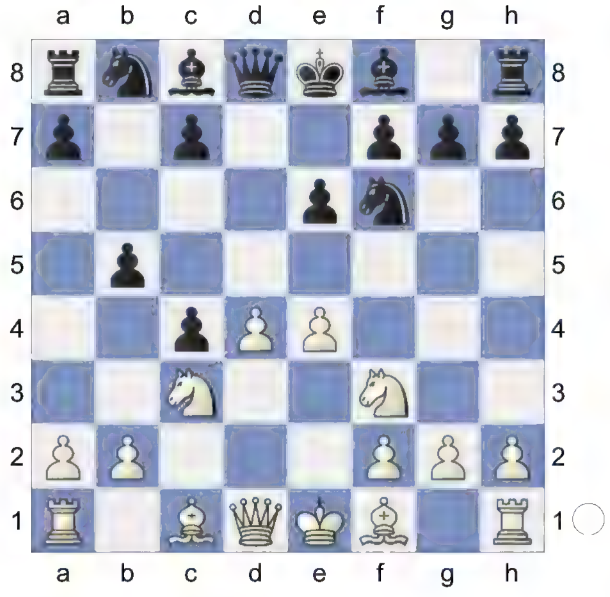
**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Lumachi,Gabriele** **2413**
■ **Chigaev,Maksim** **2617**
Karlsruhe Grenke op (5) 30.03.2024
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5**



Deflection **6.Nxb5** 0.10/21

[ 6.e5!± 0.52/22 should be considered. Nd5 7.Nxb5 ]

**6...Nxe4= 7.Qa4** Repels Bb4+ **7...Nd7N** Exploring less charted territory. Erkundet wenig bekanntes Terrain.

[ 7...c6 8.Nc3

**A)** 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Ba6 10.Bxc4 Bxc4 11.Qxc4 Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.g3 ( *13.Rb1 Qc7 14.Qd3 Nd7 15.c4 c5 16.d5 exd5 17.Qxd5 Nb6 18.Qd3 Rad8* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna − 5.e4 b5 6.Nxb5 #7 ) 13...Qa5 14.Be3 Qd5 15.Qe2 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Rab1 Nb6 19.c4 Bc7 20.Rdc1 Rac8 21.Qf3 Qg6 22.Qxc6 Bxg3 23.Qg2 ½-½ (68) 15. ♘d4 d5 16.e5 ♘e4 15226 (2468)-Johnsen,S (2483) 39th Rilton Cup 2009 (7);

**B)** 8...Nd6 9.g3 Be7 10.Bg2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Ne5 Nb6 13.Nxc6 Qc7 14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Qa3 Qd7 16.Bxa8 Nxa8 17.d5 Nb6 18.Be3 Nf5 19.Rad1 Nxd5 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Qxa7 Bb7 22.Bd4 0-1 (33) Kurenny (2597)-1.e4 player (2527) 73/(205) Dushanbe 1998 (7.4) h5 23.f3 Ra8 24.Qc5 Ra6 25.Rfe1 Rg6 26.Qa7 Qc8 27.a3 Nh4 28.Re3 Qf5 29.Qb8+ Kh7 30.Re8 Nxf3+ 31.Kh1 Rf6 32.Rh8+ Kg6 33.Qg8 Ng5 Chapter D25-Games Chapter D25 Game 1 ]

**8.Qxc4** White is slightly better.

[ 8.Nxa7 Bb7 9.Bxc4 c6-+ ]

**8...Bd6 9.Qc6N** Inhibits Bb7.

[Vorgänger: 9.Nxd6+ Nxd6 10.Qc2 Bb7 11.Bg5 Qc8 12.Rc1 Nf5 13.Qxc7 Bb5 would now be deadly. Qxc7 1.19/17 ( Black should try *13...0-0±* 0.58/21 ) 14.Rxc7± Bxf3 15.gxf3 Nxd4 0-1 Carlsen,M (2864)-Firouzja,A (2793) Zagreb SuperUnited Blitz 2022 (17) ]

**9...Bb4+ 10.Nd2** -0.30/20

[ 10.Ke2± 0.55/22 Rb8 11.Nxc7+ Ke7 12.Nxe6 ]

**10...Nxd2= 11.Bxd2**

[ 11.Qxa8? Nb3+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1-+ ]

**11...Bxd2+ 12.Kxd2 Qg5+** -0.15/19

[ 12...Rb8∓ -0.54/22 13.Nxc7+ ( *13.Nxa7? Rxb2+ 14.Ke3 Qh4-+* ) 13...Kf8 ]

**13.Ke1! Rb8** Strongly threatening ...0-0. **14.Nxc7+**

[ 14.Qxc7 0-0 15.a4 a6∓ ]

**14...Kd8** 0.36/22

[ 14...Ke7= -0.16/19 ]

**15.Nb5** -0.10/17

[ 15.Qc3± 0.36/22 is more appropriate. ]

**15...Rb6 16.Qc7+** -0.39/15

[ 16.h4= -0.03/21 Qf5 17.g4 Qxg4 18.Qc7+ Ke7 19.Qc3 ( *19.Nxa7? Qe4+ 20.Kd1 Qxh1-+* )]

**16...Ke7∓ 17.a4** -0.75/22

[Much worse is 17.Qxa7 Ba6 ( *17...Rxb5 18.Qa3+ Kd8 19.h4∓* ) 18.h4 Qf4-+ ]

[ 17.Nxa7? loses. Qa5+ 18.Kd1 Bb7-+ ]

[ 17.h4= -0.16/22 remains equal. Qf5 18.Nc3 ( *18.Qxa7 Qe4+ 19.Kd2 Ba6∓; 18.Nxa7 Qe4+ 19.Kd1 Qxd4+ 20.Ke1 Qe4+ 21.Be2 Ba6-+* ) 18...Rxb2 ( *18...Rb7 19.Qg3=* ) 19.Qg3 ]

**17...a6∓ 18.Na3 Qa5+** -0.19/20

[ 18...Qd5!∓ -0.65/21 19.Qc3 ( *19.Nc4? Rc6∓* ) 19...Rb3 ]

**19.Qc3= Qxa4 20.Bc4** Prevents Rb3 **20...Bb7 21.Nc2** Against Qb4 **21...Qc6 22.Ne3 Nf6 23.Qa3+ Qd6 24.Qxd6+ Rxd6 25.Ke2! Rxd4 26.Bxa6 Rb4 27.Rhb1 Ra8 28.Bxb7 Rxa1 29.Rxa1** And now Bc6 would win. **29...Rxb2+ 30.Kf3 Rxb7** Endgame. KRN-KRN **31.g4 h6 32.Ra6 Nd7 33.Ra5 f6 34.Ra1** -0.52/21

[ 34.Kg3= -0.15/27 feels stronger. ]

**34...Rb4 35.Kg3 g6 36.Ra5 Re4 37.Kf3** -0.86/24

[ 37.Ng2= -0.17/23 ]

**37...f5∓** aiming for ...Ne5+. **38.gxf5 gxf5 39.Ra7 Rd4** -0.44/22

[ 39...Kd6∓ -0.94/22 ]

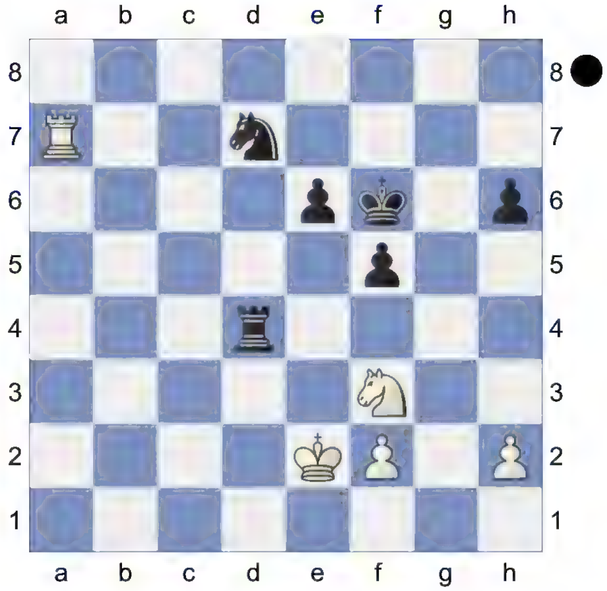
**40.Nc2 Rd2** -0.32/26

[ 40...Rd6∓ -0.79/21 ]

**41.Ne1 Kf6** ...Ne5+ is the strong threat. **42.Ke3 Rd1 43.Ke2** -1.22/21

[ 43.Nd3!= -0.12/23 Nb6 44.Ke2 ]

**43...Rd4 44.Nf3**



Wards off Ne5 **44...Re4+ 45.Kf1 Nf8 46.Rb7** -2.17/24

[ 46.Ng1∓ -1.25/24 ]

**46...h5 47.Nd2** -2.73/23

[ 47.Rb3 -1.87/25 was necessary. ]

**47...Ra4-+ 48.Rb1 Ng6 49.Kg1?** -4.05/24

[ 49.Nf3 -2.38/20 ]

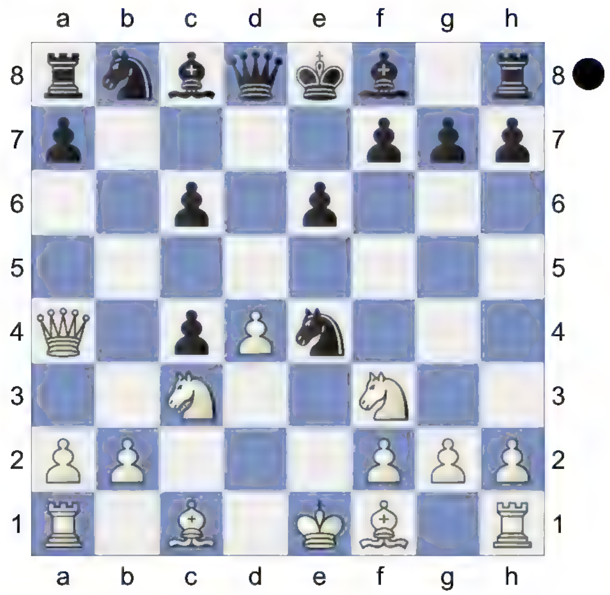
**49...Nf4 50.Nf3 Ra3 51.Nh4 Kg5 52.Ng2 Nh3+**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.27 (precise) /Black=0.16 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**
☐ **Kozul,Zdenko** **2597**
■ **Zelcic,Robert** **2527**
Hrvatska (ch) 145/120 2020
*[Paunovic,T, MH]*

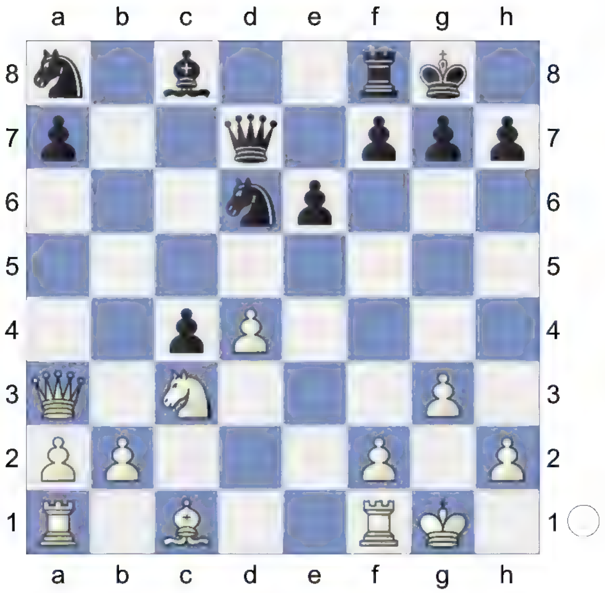
D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3
**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5** Deflection **6.Nxb5** 0.04/19
[ 6.e5!± 0.48/22 ]
**6...Nxe4= 7.Qa4** Prevents Bb4+. **7...c6 8.Nc3** Diagram



. The position is equal. **8...Nd6N**
[ 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Ba6 10.Bxc4 Bxc4 11.Qxc4 Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.g3 Qa5 14.Be3 Qd5 15.Qe2 Nd7 16.Rfd1 Rfe8 17.Nd2 Qf5 18.Rab1 Nb6 19.c4 Bc7 20.Rdc1 Rac8 21.Qf3 Qg6 22.Qxc6 Bxg3 23.Qg2 Bh4 ↑-↑ (68) 15. ♘ d4 d5 16.e5 ♘e4 15226 (2468)-Johnsen,S (2483) 39th Rilton Cup 2009 (7) ]
**9.g3!** White has compensation.
[ 9.Bxc4 Nxc4 10.Qxc4 Ba6= ]
**9...Be7 10.Bg2 0-0** 0.51/23
[ 10...Nd7= 0.13/22 ]
**11.0-0** 0.09/20
[ 11.Ne5!± 0.51/23 ]
**11...Nd7= 12.Ne5**
[ 12.Qxc6 Bb7 13.Qa4 Nb6 ]
**12...Nb6?!** 1.98/19
[ 12...Bb7 0.51/24 12...Nxe5 0.02 13.Nxc6 Bxc6 14.Qxc6 Rc8 15.Qa4± ]
[ 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nf5 14.Bxc6 Rb8 15.Qxa7 Bb7! 16.Bxb7 Qc7 17.Nb5! Rxb7! 18.Nxc7 Rxa7 19.Nb5 Ra5! 20.a4 Rfa8 21.Bd2 Rxa4 22.Rxa4 Rxa4= ]
[ 12...Nxe5= 0.09/22 13.dxe5 Nf5 ]
**13.Nxc6!+- Qc7** 2.85/22
[ 13...Nxa4 14.Nxd8 Rxd8 15.Bxa8 Bd7 16.Bf3± ]
[ 13...Bd7 14.Nxd8 *( 14.Nxe7+!? Qxe7 15.Qa3± )* 14...Nxa4 15.Bxa8 Rxd8 16.Bf3± ]
[ △13...Nxa4 1.92/24 14.Nxd8 Discovered Attack Rxd8 *( 14...Nxc3? 15.bxc3 Rxd8 16.Bxa8+- )*]
**14.Nxe7+**
[ △14.Qa3 ]
**14...Qxe7 15.Qa3 Qd7**
[ 15...Rb8? 4.11/23 15...Qd7 2.06 16.Bf4 Rd8 17.Ne4+- ]
[ 15...Nd5 16.Bf4 Nxf4 17.Bxa8+- ]
**16.Bxa8 Nxa8** Diagram

(Diagram)

**17.d5! Nb6**
[ △17...Bb7
A) 18.Bf4 Nb5 19.Qa4 *( 19.Nxb5 Qxd5 20.f3! Qxb5 21.Qxa7 Bd5± )* 19...a6 20.Qxc4 dxe6 would now be deadly. Nxc3 21.bxc3+-;
B) 18.Qxa7 exd5 19.Nxd5+-;
C) 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.f3!+- ]
**18.Be3**
[ 18.dxe6!? Qxe6 2.93/21 *( 18...fxe6*



1.93/19 is a better defense. *19.Rd1 Nd5 )* 19.Be3 Bb7 20.Bxb6 axb6 21.Rad1 Bf3 22.Ne2! Qxe2 23.Rfe1 ]

**18...Nf5**

[ 18...Nxd5 19.Nxd5 exd5 20.Bc5! Rd8 21.Qxa7 ]

**19.Rad1**

[ 19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Qa4 ]

**19...Nxd5 20.Nxd5** 1.49/19

[ 20.Bc5!? ]

[ 20.Bxa7?! Bb7± ]

[ 20.Bc5+- 1.87/22 Rd8 21.Qxa7 ]

**20...exd5±** Black is weak on the dark squares **21.Qxa7** 0.91/18

[ 21.Bxa7 d4= ]

[ ⌓21.Bc5! 1.60/23 Rd8 22.Qa5 *( 22.Bxa7 Bb7± )*]

**21...Bb7 22.Bd4 h5 23.f3 Ra8 24.Qc5 Ra6!?** 1.29/22

[ 24...Rxa2 25.Ra1 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Nxd4 27.Qxd4 Qf5± ]

[ ⌓24...Rxa2 0.93/24 25.Ra1 Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Nxd4 27.Qxd4 Bc6 ]

**25.Rfe1 Rg6** 2.03/22

[ 25...Nxd4± 1.11/21 26.Qxd4 *( 26.Rxd4 Rxa2 27.Rd2 Bc6± )* 26...Rxa2 ]

**26.Qa7 Qc8** 2.13/20

[ 26...Kh7 1.65/19 was necessary. ]

**27.a3** 1.22/19

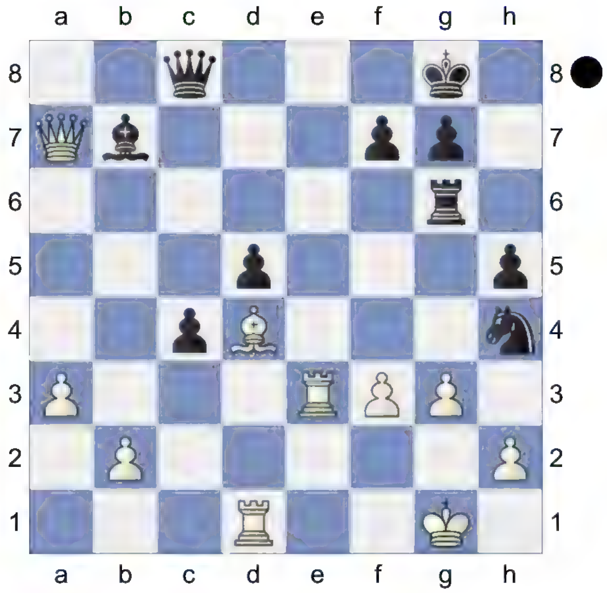
[ ⌓27.Re5 ]

[ 27.Re5+- 2.13/20 ]

**27...Nh4 28.Re3?** 0.22/25 Diagram

[ 28.Rf1!± ]

[Better is 28.Rf1!± 1.16/21 ]



**28...Qf5!** 0.63/28 **29.Qb8+⩲**

[ 29.Qxb7?? -5.03/21 29.Kh1 0.82 Qc2!-+ ]

[ 29.Qxb7? Qc2 30.Qc8+ Kh7-+ ]

**29...Kh7□ 30.Re8?** -0.90/21

[ 30.Kh1! Re6! *( 30...Qc2?* 2.32/20 30...Re6 0.70 *31.Rg1+- )* 31.Qf4! Qxf4 32.gxf4 Rxe6 is the strong threat. Rxe3 33.Bxe3 Nxf3⩲ ]

[ 30.Qxb7? Qc2 31.Kf1 Qxd1+ 32.Kf2 Qd2+ *( 32...Qxd4? 33.Qxf7 Qxb2+ 34.Re2-+ )* 33.Kf1 Qxd4-+ ]

[ 30.Kh1!⩲ 0.53/21 Re6 *( 30...Nxf3? 31.Rf1+- )* 31.Qf4 *( 31.gxh4? Rxe3 32.Qg3 Qxf3+ 33.Qxf3 Rxf3-+ )* 31...Qxf4 32.gxf4 Rxe3 33.Bxe3 ]

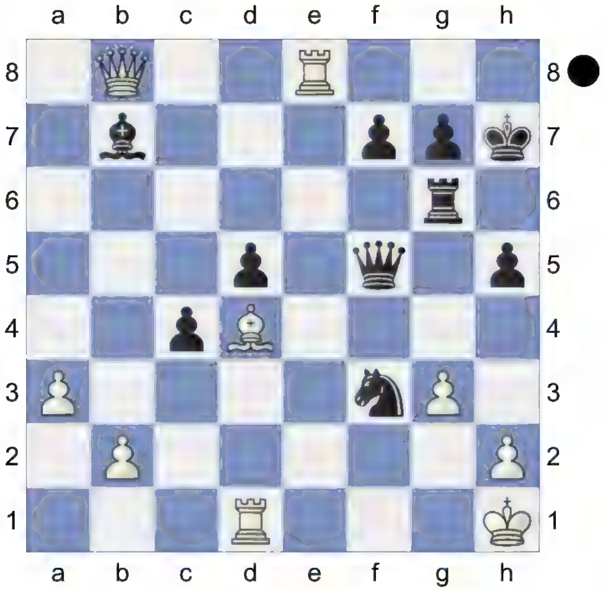
**30...Nxf3+→** Black attacks with force.

**31.Kh1?** -4.33/27

[ ⌓31.Kg2 Qc2+ 32.Kxf3 Qxd1+

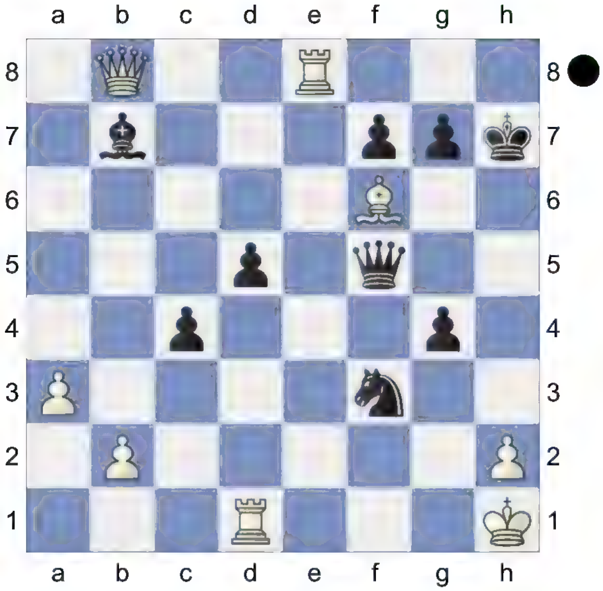
33.Kg2 Qc2+ 34.Kg1 Rg4∓ 0.00/21 *( 34...Qd1+∓* -0.66/21 *35.Kg2 Rg4 )*]

[ 31.Kg2∓ -1.03/21 nothing else works. Qc2+ 32.Kxf3 *( 32.Bf2? Nh4+ 33.Kg1 Qxd1+-+ )* 32...Qxd1+ 33.Kg2 Qc2+ *( 33...Qd2+ 34.Kh3= )* 34.Kh3 Qf5+ 35.Kg2 ]



**31...Rf6?** 0.00/23 **32.Rh8+** -4.60/5

[ 32.g4! hxg4 33.Bxf6 Diagram



Nd2!

**A)** 34.Ree1 Qf3+ 35.Kg1 Ne4! 36.Bh4 Prevents Qf2+. Strongly threatening Rxe4. g3! 37.Bxg3 *( 37.hxg3* Threatens to win with Qf4! *Qf2+ 38.Kh1 d4 39.Qxb7 Qf3+ 40.Kh2 Qf2+ 41.Kh3 Qf5+=; 37.hxg3!? Qf2+ 38.Kh1= )*;

**B)** 34.Rh8+ Kg6 35.Kg1! Nf3+ 36.Kg2! Black must now prevent Bxg7. Qc2+ -0.36/14 *( 36...Qe4=* 0.00/23 *37.Kg3 Ne1 )* 37.Kg3∓ Qxd1 38.Bxg7!= ]

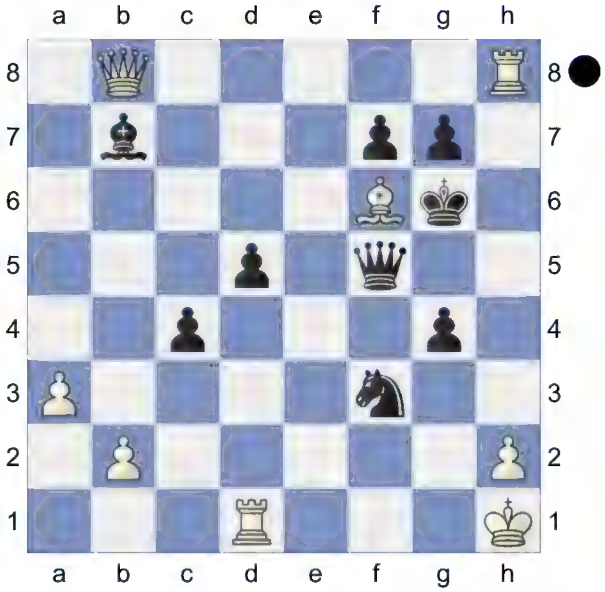
[ 32.Qxb7 is a self mate. Nh4 *( 32...Qc2 33.Rh8+ Kg6 34.Qxf7+ Rxf7 35.Rd2 Qb1+ 36.Rd1 Qxd1+ 37.Kg2 Ne1+ 38.Kh1 Rf1+ 39.Bg1 Qf3# )* 33.Kg1 Qf3 ]

[ 32.Bxf6? Qc2 33.g4 *( 33.Rh8+ Kg6 )* 33...Qxd1+ 34.Kg2 d4 *( 34...gxf6 35.Rh8+* Skewer *Kg7 36.Qg8#; 34...hxg4? 35.Kg3-+ )* 35.Qxb7 Qg1+ *( 35...hxg4 36.Qe4+ g6 37.Rh8# )* 36.Kxf3 Qh1+ Skewer *( 36...gxf6 37.Qxf7+ Kh6 38.Qxf6+ Kh7 39.Rh8# )* 37.Kf2 Qxb7 38.Bxd4 Qd7-+ *( 38...hxg4? 39.Re3-+ )*]

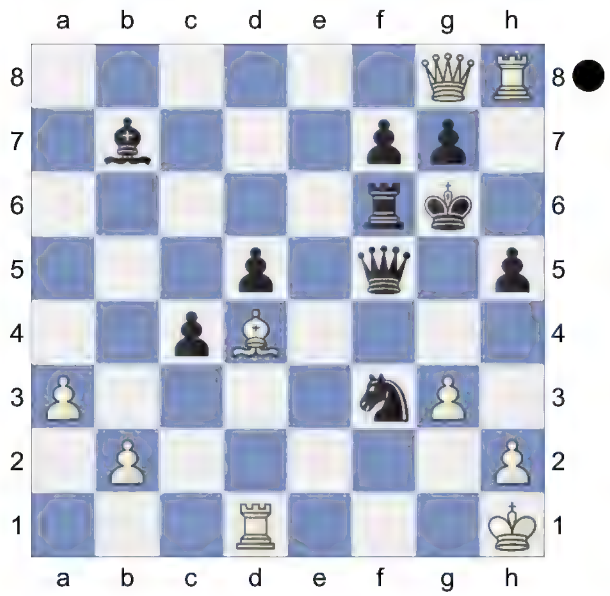
[ 32.g4!= 0.00/23 and White is okay. hxg4 33.Bxf6 *( 33.Qxb7 Nh4 )*]

**32...Kg6-+ 33.Qg8?** -#14/13

[ 33.g4 hxg4 34.Bxf6



Qe4! 35.Qg3 d4! ( -> ...Ng5+) 36.Qg2 Hoping for Bxd4! Kxf6-+ ]
[ 33.Qxb7 gets mated. Nh4 ( *33...Qc2 34.Bg1 Qxd1 35.Qa7 d4 36.Qxd4 Nxd4 37.h3 Ne2 38.Rh6+ Kxh6 39.h4 Qxg1#* ) 34.Kg1 Qf3 ]
[ 33.Bxf6 leads to mate. Qc2 ]
[ 33.g4-+ -4.11/19 hxg4 34.Bxf6 ( *34.Qxb7 Nh4 35.Kg1 Qf3* )]



**33...Ng5!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.66/ Black=0.51

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Vallejo Pons,Francisco** **2716**
■ **Nakamura,Hikaru** **2753**
Grand Slam Final 4th (9) 10.10.2011
*[Ed Romain,Kitty Kat]*

(90min+10sec)/40+(60min+10sec)

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** Threatens to win with 0-0. **6...Nxe4** A side-line. Nakamura is a fighter! Ok, everyone knows it.

**7.0-0! Nf6**

[ 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 ]

**8.Qa4+** White is slightly better.

[ 8.Bg5 0-0 9.Qe2 h6 10.Bh4 Be7 11.Rad1 Nbd7 12.Ne5 Nb6 13.Bd3 Nfd5 14.Bg3

**A)** 14...f5 0.23/20 14...a5 -0.23 15.h3 -0.20/21 ( *⌓15.Ng6* 0.23/20 ) 15...Bd6 16.Rfe1 Qg5 17.Qf3

**A1)** 17...Bxe5 18.Bxe5 -0.19/24 ( *⌓18.Rxe5* 0.28/23 *Bd7 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.h4* ) 18...Bd7;

**A2)** 17...Qf6= 0.09/22;

**A3)** 17...Nf6 0.52/18 18.Bf4⩲ Qh5 19.Qg3;

**B)** 14...Bd7 15.Ne4 Ba4 16.Rc1! ( *16.b3* -0.92/21 16.Rc1 -0.22 *Be8* ) 16...Nd7 17.b3 Nxe5 18.dxe5 Bc6 ]

**8...Nc6 9.Bg5**

[ 9.Ne5 Rb8 breaks Black's pawn structure but also solves many of his problems: White doesn't have much advantage here. 10.Nxc6!? bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Qd7 12.Qxd7+ is one way to play. White is better, but I don't know how much. Bxd7 ]

**9...Be7**

[ 9...Bxc3!? should simply be the best: 10.bxc3 Hoping for d5! 0-0

**A)** 11.Rad1 Ne7! 0.51/21 seems like a draw: ( *11...h6=* 0.13/21 *12.Bh4 Ne7* ) 12.Rfe1⩲ b6 and White should repeat or some ...f5 moves are coming. Difficult to say if Nakamura missed this line or deliberately chose not to play it. 13.Ne5 Bb7= 14.Bxf6 with the idea of facing gxf6 with 15.Nd7 Bc6! 16.Nxf6+! is a decent idea, and after Kg7! 17.Nh5+ Kh8

18.Qc2 Rg8 19.Ng3 Nd5 20.Bd3 White is surely a bit better, but Black should get a draw, by playing ...♖d7 & ...♖bd8 and taking on ...d6 at some well chosen point.;

**B)** 11.Rae1 Ne7 12.Qc2 b5 0.34/22 *( 12...Nf5 0.43/20 12...c5 -0.11; 12...c5!= -0.15/19 feels stronger.)* 13.Bxb5⩲ Bb7 14.Qd3 Nf5 0.88/19 and White is definitely slightly better. *( 14...c5⩲ 0.39/22 )* 15.Ne5± Strongly threatening Qh3. h6 16.Bc1 is maybe good too, due to Black's bishop's passivity. Nd6 1.16/20 *( 16...Qd5⩲ 0.57/18 17.f3 Qxa2 )* 17.Ba4 and Black is still under huge pressure. ]

**10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5 exd5N 12.Rfe1+**

[ 12.Nxd5= -0.01/22 12.Rae1+ 0.61 0-0?? 13.Rad1+- The deep point of playing ♕d3 first: the queen is protected. Bg4 White must now prevent ...Bxf3. 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Bxf7+! Qxf7 16.Qxg4 Rd7 is the strong threat. Qxa2 17.Rd7 Rf7 18.Rxf7 Qxf7 19.Ng5 Qb3 20.Qf5 h6 21.Qh7+! Kf8 22.Qf5+ Kg8 23.Qh7+ should be drawn. Kf8 24.Qf5+± ]

**12...Be6 13.Bxd5**

[ 13.Ba6 bxa6! (a lucky move!) 14.Qxc6+ Kf8 15.Rad1 Rb8! and Black should escape. 16.Nxd5 Qd6 17.Qxd6+ cxd6 18.Nxf6 gxf6 19.b3 Ke7 20.Nd4 ]

**13...0-0 14.Bxe6 fxe6 15.Rad1** Prevents Nd4.

[ 15.Rxe6 Qd7! 16.Re2 *( 16.Re3 )* 16...Kh8 ]

**15...Qe8**

[ 15...Qe7 16.Qb3 is fine for Black for the same reasons that 27.♕d3 was (as the d2-queen is not protected like on d3, it is actually even easier for Black!). *( 16.Nd5 Qf7 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.Qb3* somehow it looks like Black more or less holds: *Rad8! 19.Qxb7 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Ne5; 16.Nd5!? Qf7□ 17.Nxf6+ Qxf6 18.h3= )* 16...Rad8 looks great, but after 17.Qxb7 Nd4 ]

**16.Ne4**↑ White has good play.

[ 16.Qb3 Rd8 *( 16...Qf7= 17.Qxb7 Nd4 )* 17.Qxb7= Nd4 ]

**16...Qe7** Inhibits Nc5.Black is slightly worse, but these kinds of positions are not at all easy to break with White.

[ 16...Rd8 17.Qb3 Qf7 18.Qxb7 Nd4 ]

**17.Qb3 Rab8**

[ 17...Rad8 18.Qxb7 Nd4 19.Neg5 Rb8 20.Qxa7 Ra8 21.Qb7 Rfb8 22.Qe4 Nxf3+ 23.Nxf3!? Rxa2 ]

**18.Nxf6+ Rxf6 19.Ng5 Qb4** 1.02/22

[ 19...Kh8? 20.Rc1= *( 20.Re3! )* 20...Qd7? 21.Nxe6 Nd4 22.Nc5-+ ]

[ 19...Kh8= 0.20/25 ]

**20.Qc2±** White has strong compensation.

[ 20.Rxe6?! Qxb3 21.axb3 Rbf8= ]

**20...Rg6** 1.51/24

[ 20...g6 time. Drama! Everyone knows the rest. 21.Re4! Qe7 and Black is up a pawn, with all the winning chances on his side. 22.Rde1! just wins a pawn: e5□ *( 22...Nd8 23.h4 )* 23.f4 Rf5 24.b4 ]

[ 20...Rh6? 3.93/20 20...g6 0.97 21.Rxe6 and Black is up a big pawn, and a probably winning position. ]

[ ⌓20...g6 1.03/22 ]

**21.Re4!** White is more active.

[ 21.Nxe6? -3.58/22 21.Re4 1.01 Re8 22.a3 Qe7! ]

[ 21.Nxe6? Re8 22.Qc5 Rgxe6-+ *( 22...Rexe6? 23.Rd8+* Deflection

*Nxd8 24.Qxb4+- )*]

**21...Qa5** 3.48/18

[ 21...Qe7 22.h4 And now Rxe6! would win. Rd8 23.Rd3 Rxd3? 24.Qxd3 aiming for Rxe6!Strange! Qd8 25.Qb3 ]

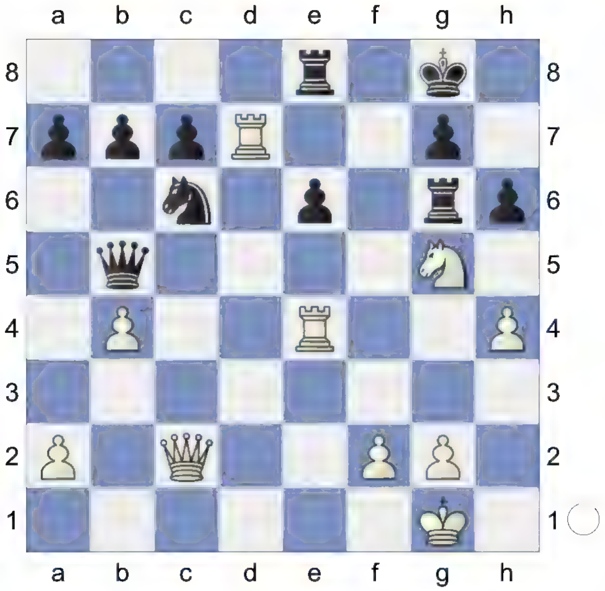
[ 21...Qf8 1.92/25 ]

**22.h4!+-**

[ 22.Nxe6 Qxa2 23.Nxc7 Qf7= ]

**22...Re8 23.Rd7 h6 24.b4 Qf5**

[ 24...Qb5



25.a4! Nxb4 ...Qxg5 would now be deadly. 26.Qxc7 Nd5 27.axb5 Intending Rxd5 and mate. Nxc7

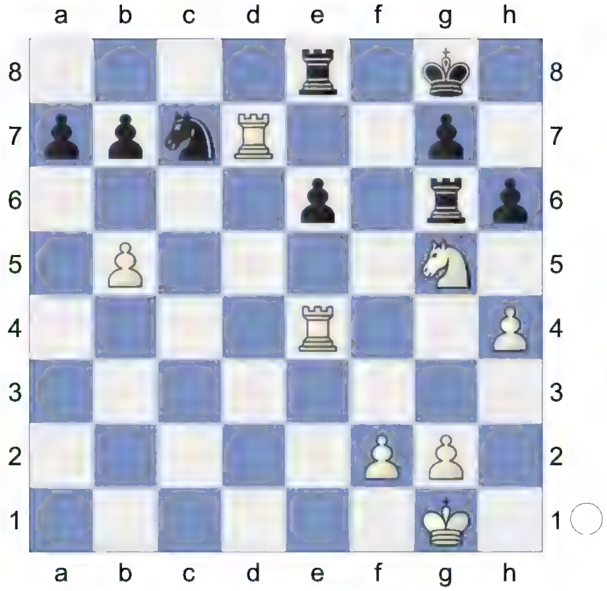
(Diagram)

28.Nf3! Nxb5 Now Black is definitely all right! 29.Ne5 Rf6 30.Rg4 ]

**25.Rxe6!** Discovered Attack, Remove Defender **25...Rgxe6N** #7/17

[ 25...Qxc2 #1/17 25...Qxe6 4.32 Here White seems much better, but actually he needs to be very precise. 26.Rxe8#?! Too early. ]

[ 25...Qxe6+- 4.60/20 26.Nxe6 Rgxe6 27.Rxc7 *( 27.b5 Ne5+- )* 27...Re1+ 28.Kh2 R1e4 ]



**26.Qxf5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.48

**1-0**

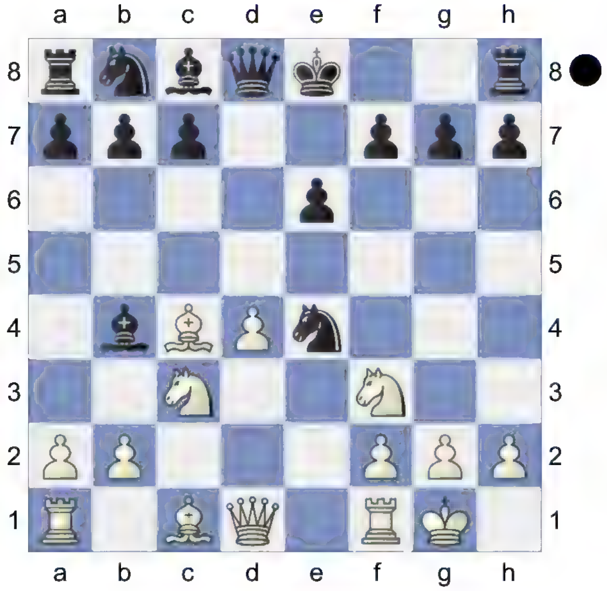
**D24**

□ **Ding,Liren** **2702**
■ **Meier,Georg** **2646**
SPICE Cup St Louis (7) 18.10.2012
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Ding Liren conclusively outplayed his opponent here. White's centralisation gave him excellent compensation for the pawn and then he cleverly exploited the advantages of his position. Black could have defended better but it seems that he is under some pressure anyway. Ding Liren conclusively outplayed his opponent here. White's centralisation gave him excellent compensation for the pawn and then he cleverly exploited the advantages of his position. Black could have defended better but it seems that he is under some pressure anyway. Ris,Robert: 'PRESSING THE VIENNA In the games of Chinese prodigy Ding Liren the board is always set on fire. His aggressive approach ensures his opponent succumbs to the pressure in the end.' **1.d4** Ris,Robert **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4**

[ 6.Bg5 (Ris,Robert) used to be White's main option, even though there are many variations leading to a forced draw. Our last update can be found in CVO 141. ]

**6...Nxe4 7.0-0** Ris,Robert: 'Diagram



' **7...Nxc3**

[ 7...Nf6 (Ris,Robert) was Anand's choice in his game against Aronian, but understandably it hasn't been repeated since then (CVO 145). ]

**8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6**

[ Other options fail to completely extinguish White's initiative, for example, 10...Kh8 11.Qh3 Qe8 12.Bd3 f5 13.Re1 and White's compensation for the pawn is beyond doubt, Kasimdzhanov - Gelfand/ Candidates (m/4) Elista 2007. and White's compensation for the pawn is beyond doubt, Kasimdzhanov - Gelfand/Candidates (m/4) Elista 2007. ]

[or 10...Bf6 11.Re1 Nc6 leads to the line 10...Bf6, mentioned above. 12.Bb3!? *( 12.Rb1!? )*

**A)** 12...Ne7 13.Ba3 Bd7 14.Rad1⩲ a5? 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.d5 Kh8 17.dxe6 Qc8 18.Qh5 fxe6 19.Bxe7 Bxe7 20.Bc2+- Riazantsev - Frolyanov, RUS-chT Olginka 2011;

**B)** 12...Bd7 13.Bf4 *( 13.Re3!?; 13.Rb1!? )* 13...Ne7 14.Rad1 Bxe5 15.dxe5 Qe8 (Shimanov - Stukopin, Sochi 2012) 16.Bg5! Nf5 17.Bc2↑;

**C)** 12...g6!? 13.Qf3 *( 13.Ba4!? )* 13...Nxe5 *( 13...Rb8!? )* 14.dxe5 Bg5 15.Ba3 Be7 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxb7 Rfc8⩲ with a somewhat worse position, which Black eventually held, Gunina - Vorobiov, Moscow 2012. with a somewhat worse position, which Black eventually held, Gunina - Vorobiov, Moscow 2012. ]

**11.Re1**

[ At the moment White fails to give Black real problems after Ris,Robert: 'Cheparinov scored a crushing victory over Meier with' At the moment White fails to give Black real problems after 11.Bh6 Ris,Robert: 'which was analysed extensively in CVO 149.' Bf6 , usually followed by ...Nc6-e7 and ...c7-c5 - it has already been considered in several games. , usually followed by ...Nc6-e7 and ...c7-c5 - it has already been considered in several games. ]

**11...f5**

[ 11...Bf6 leads to the line 10...Bf6, mentioned above. ]

[ In the game Nyback - Neubauer, GER-chT 2011, Black tried In the game Nyback - Neubauer, GER-chT

2011, Black tried 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Kh8 13.Qh3 *( 13.Rd1!? )* 13...Bd7 *( 13...Qd7!? )* 14.Bd3 g6 15.Bh6 Rg8 16.Be4≌ and White kept the pressure. Bc6 Ris,Robert 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Rad1 Qe8 19.Be3 c5 20.Qf3 Kg7 with about equality in Nyback-Neubauer, Bremen 2011. ]

[ In the game Shimanov - Grigoryan, WCh U20 Athens 2012, White obtained the better chances after In the game Shimanov - Grigoryan, WCh U20 Athens 2012, White obtained the better chances after 11...Kh8 12.Bf4 Nxe5 Ris,Robert: 'Attention has to be paid to' 13.dxe5 Ris,Robert: '!?' Ris, Robert: 'after which White builds up a dangerous initiative on the kingside, e. g.' *( 13.Bxe5!? )* 13...f5 *( 13...Bd7!? 14.Rad1* Ris,Robert *Qe8 15.Rd3 Bb5 16.Rg3 Rg8 17.Bb3 Rd8 18.Bc2* and Black remains under pressure.*)* 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Rad1 Qe7 16.Be5 *( 16.Bd3!? )* 16...Qf7 17.Qf4 Qe7 18.Re2 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Rb8 20.f4 ]

**12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1!?** A clever novelty. White simply moves his rook back to its normal place, maintaining the advantages of his position. A clever novelty. White simply moves his rook back to its normal place, maintaining the advantages of his position.

[ Before White tried more active continuations but without much success: 14.Bxe6 Bd6 15.Re2 *( 15.Bxc8* Ris,Robert *Bxe5 16.Bxb7 Rb8 17.a4 Bd6* gives White some compensation for the P, but certainly no more: Shulman-Meier, Lubbock 2011. *)* 15...Bxe6 16.Rxe6 Qd7 is fine for Black, Lalith - Swapnil, Aurangabad 2011 Ris,Robert: 'is unproblematic for Black.' is fine for Black, Lalith - Swapnil, Aurangabad 2011 ]

[ 14.Bf4

**A)** 14...Bd6!? 15.Re2 Bxf4 16.Qxf4⩲ Wojtaszek - Macieja, POL-ch Warsaw 2012 Qd6 Ris,Robert 17.Re5 *( 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6 Rc8 22.Rxd6 Kg8* with a drawish endgame.*)* 17...Bd7 18.Qe3 Rae8 and White had some pressure for the P but no more in Wojtaszek-Macieja, Warsaw 2012.;

**B)** 14...g5!? 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Re2 Qf6 *( 16...g4* Ris,Robert *17.Qd3 Qh4 18.g3 Qh3* and White needs to be careful.*)* 17.Rae1 *( 17.Qh5!?* Ris,Robert*)* 17...g4 18.Qd3 f4 19.f3 Qf5 20.Qxf5 *( 20.fxg4!? )* 20...exf5 21.Bd3 Kg8 22.c4 c5 23.Bc3 Bd7 and here a draw was agreed, Riazantsev - Bauer, Biel 2010. Ris,Robert: 'and a draw was agreed in Riazantsev-Bauer, Biel 2010.' ]

**14...c5** This typical pawn advance is not so effective here. Black's main problem – his Q-side development - does not seem to be solved like this. This typical pawn advance is not so effective here. Black's main problem ↑ his Q-side development - does not seem to be solved like this. **15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1!** White quickly brings all his pieces into play. **16...Bf6**

[ 16...d3!? was worth considering, although after 17.Rxd3 Qe8 18.Be5≌ White kept more than sufficient control over the center although his pawn has been left on c3. White kept more than sufficient control over the center although his pawn has been left on c3. ]

**17.cxd4 Re8**

[ Of course the P can't be taken with 17...Bxd4? (Ris,Robert) because of 18.Be5 and White wins material. ]

**18.Re3**

[ 18.Be5!? deserved attention: Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Bd7 20.Qxb7⩲ with advantage. ]

**18...Bd7!** It was hardly possible to develop the Q-side without any concessions. Every waiting move would give White the time for improvement so Black cleverly prefers not to wait any longer. It was hardly possible to develop the Q-side without any concessions. Every waiting move would give White the time for improvement so Black cleverly prefers not to wait any longer. **19.Qh5**

[ White wasn't satisfied with a slight edge after Ris,Robert: 'White could have regained his P with' 19.Qxb7!? Ris,Robert: 'though after' Ba4! 20.Bb3 ( *20.Rd2* Ris,Robert *Rc8* is fine for Black. ) 20...Bxb3 21.Qxb3 ( *21.axb3?* Ris,Robert: 'can be met by' *e5!* Ris,Robert: 'and White's back rank problems can be felt.') 21...Qb6 Ris,Robert: 'the position is pretty balanced.' 22.Qa4⩲ - the text move leads to more complicated play. ]

**19...g6**

[Also worth considering is 19...Qe7!? (Ris,Robert) with the idea of meeting 20.Rh3 with g5! ]

**20.Qe2 Ba4!?**

[ Black had some other options but he was under pressure in any case: 20...Kg7 21.Bxe6 Rxe6 22.Rxe6 Bxe6 23.Qxe6 Qg8!? ( *23...Qe8 24.Qb3↑* ) 24.Qd7+ Qf7 25.Qb5⩲ ]

[or 20...Qb6 21.h4!? ]

**21.Rd2 Rc8**

[ 21...b5!? was worth considering: 22.Bxb5 Bxb5 23.Qxb5 Qb6 24.Qe2 Kg8⩲ ]

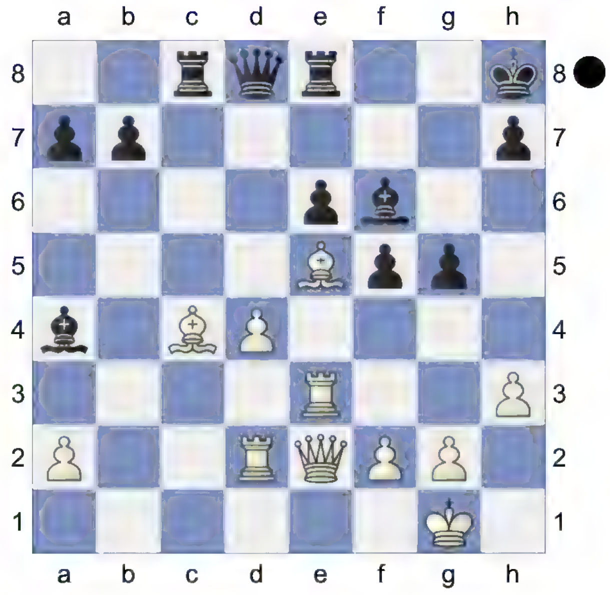
**22.h3!** An important move - White needs a hole for the king.

[ 22.Ra3? (Ris,Robert) can be answered by b5! ]

**22...g5**

[In case of 22...Kg7!? White could have maintained his edge by 23.Rxe6 b5 24.Bd5! Qd7 25.Qe3 b4 26.Re5! ]

**23.Be5** Ris,Robert: 'Diagram



' **23...f4?** Black loses patience.

[ Ris,Robert: 'A serious mistake. Black should have played' 23...Bxe5! 24.Rxe5 ( *24.dxe5* Ris,Robert *Qa5* seems OK for Black.) 24...Qd6 was still quite playable for Black. For example, 25.g3 ( *25.Bxe6??* Ris,Robert: '?' Ris,Robert: 'fails to' *Rc1+ 26.Kh2 Rxe6-+* Ris,Robert: '!' Ris,Robert: 'and Black wins a piece.'; *25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.Qxe6 Qxe6 27.Bxe6 Rc1+ 28.Kh2 Rc2* Ris,Robert: 'with equality.' *29.Rxc2 Bxc2* ) 25...Bd7 26.Bb3=∞ ]

**24.Bxf6+?!** Returning the favour. Ris, Robert: '?'

[ An immediate Ris,Robert: 'Stronger would have been' 24.Ra3! was stronger: Bc6 *( 24...b5 25.Bxb5 Bxb5 26.Qxb5 )* 25.Rxa7± with a clear advantage as Black had nothing to compensate his weaknesses. Ris,Robert: 'and White regains the P with interest.' with a clear advantage as Black had nothing to compensate his weaknesses. ]

**24...Qxf6 25.Re5!?**

[ White still ignores the e6-pawn although Ris,Robert: 'Nothing can be gained from' 25.Rxe6 Rxe6 26.Bxe6± could have promised him the better chances. Re8 Ris,Robert 27.d5 Bd7 and Black has everything under control. ]

**25...Bd7?!**

[ The retreat of the bishop looks natural but perhaps Black should have seriously thought about The retreat of the bishop looks natural but perhaps Black should have seriously thought about 25...f3!? 26.gxf3 Bd7 , trying to shake his opponent's comfortable position. , trying to shake his opponent's comfortable position. ]

**26.f3 h6**

[The more concrete 26...Rc6!? to place the rook more actively on d6 was worth considering. ]

**27.Rd1 a6 28.Re1 Kg7 29.Bb3** White maintains the pressure and it's really not easy for Black to defend. White maintains the pressure and it's really not easy for Black to defend.

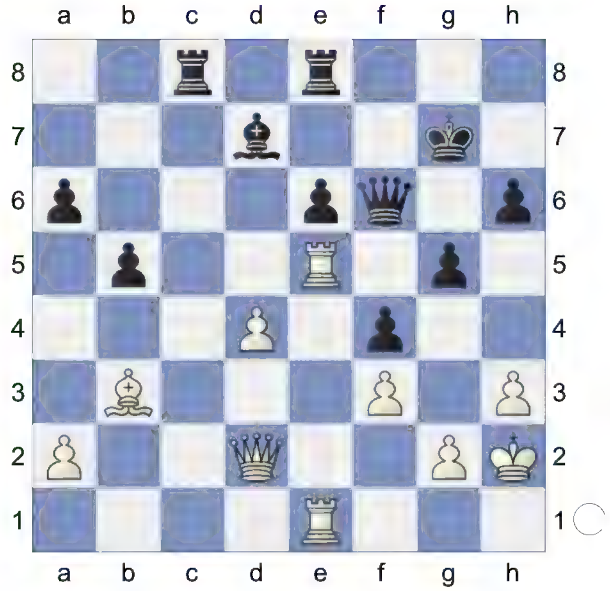
**29...b5** Ris,Robert: '?!'

[ Ris,Robert: 'Unnecessarily weakening the dark squares on the queenside. Better would have been' 29...a5!? deserved attention, trying to disturb White's bishop. Ris,Robert: 'even though after' deserved attention, trying to disturb White's bishop. 30.Qe4! (Ris,Robert) White retains some pressure. ]

**30.Qd2! Kh8** There are no useful moves! **31.Kh2**

[The immediate 31.Qa5 (Ris,Robert) would have been strong as well, but Ding Liren prefers to bring his K to a safer place. ]

**31...Kg7** Ris,Robert: 'Diagram



' **32.Qa5**

[ Ris,Robert: 'Although there isn't anything wrong with the text, White could have played the more straightforward' 32.d5! was already strong as Ris,Robert: 'when Black's position is totally paralyzed, e. g.' exd5? was impossible due to *( 32...Rcd8 Ris,Robert 33.Qd4 Bc8 34.Qc5 Qe7 35.Qc2 and Black will soon collapse.)* 33.Qxd5 Bc6 *( 33...Rxe5 Ris,Robert 34.Qxd7+ and wins. )* 34.Qc5 Ris,Robert: '!' Ris, Robert: 'and Black has too many problems to deal with.' Rxe5 35.Rxe5 and Black was losing due to the unfortunate position of his pieces:

and Black was losing due to the unfortunate position of his pieces: Be8!? *( 35...Bd7 36.Qa7! Qd6 37.Rd5 Rc7 38.Qd4+ Qf6 39.Rxd7++- )* 36.Re7+ Kh8 37.Qa7 Bg6 38.Re6 Qg7 39.Qxa6+- ]

**32...h5**

[ 32...Rc6 (Ris,Robert) runs into 33.d5! ]

**33.Qxa6 g4** This counterplay does not disturb White. **34.Qb7**

[ 34.Rxh5!? ]

**34...Re7 35.Qe4!** Centralisation again! White's pieces are working at full power - Black is just defenseless. Centralisation again! White's pieces are working at full power - Black is just defenseless. **35...g3+ 36.Kh1 Be8 37.d5!** Finally! **37...Bg6 38.Qb4 Rec7 39.Rxe6 Qf5 40.Qd4+ Kh6 41.Qd2**

[Also strong is 41.d6! Ris,Robert Rc1 42.Rd1 Rxd1+ 43.Qxd1 Rd8 44.d7 b4 45.Qd6 Qb1+ 46.Bd1 Qf5 47.Re7 and Black doesn't have any moves. ]

**41...Rc3 42.d6 Rd3 43.d7! Rd8 44.Qe2 Rc3**

[ 44...R3xd7 Ris,Robert: 'can be met by' 45.Bc2!+- Ris,Robert: '!' ]

**45.Rd1 Kg7 46.Rxg6+!** Black resigned. Ris,Robert: 'and Black resigned, in view of' **46...Qxg6** Ris,Robert

[ 46...Kxg6 Ris,Robert 47.Qe8++- ]

**47.Qe7+** and White wins.

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Erdos,Viktor 2559**
■ **Brunner,Nicolas 2425**
EU-Cup 38th Durres (3.3) 03.10.2023
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Foisor,Sabina Francesca: 'Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3'' **1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Rd1 Qd7 12.Qf4 g5 13.Nxg5** -0.32/19 White has more active pieces. The black rooks are passive.

[ 13.Qg3!± 0.63/23 ]

**13...Bxg5∓ 14.Qxg5 Ne7 15.d5!** Deflection **15...Nbxd5 16.a4N** aiming for Qh5!

[ 16.Nc3 Rg8 17.Qd2 Rxg2+ 18.Kxg2 Nxc3+ 19.f3 Nxd1 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.Bxd1 Ng6 Zabolotnov,E (2255)-Kardashevskiy,E (2428) Saint Petersburg 142/(136) 2019 ]

**16...Rg8↑** White is under pressure. **17.Qd2 a6 18.Nd4 0-0-0! 19.f3** -1.12/19

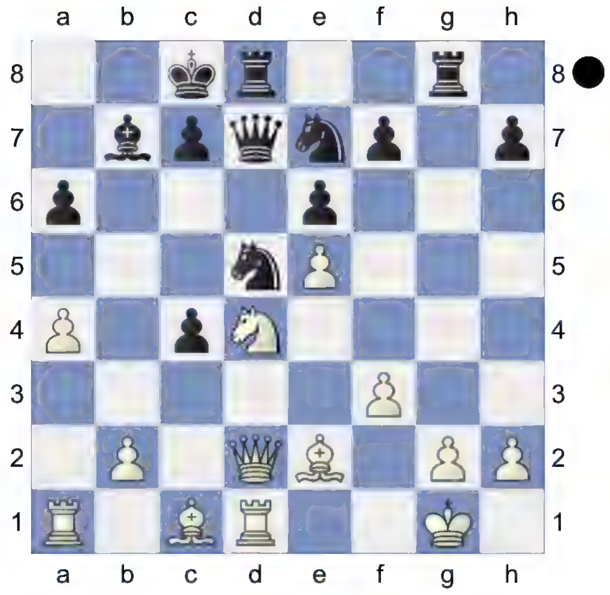
[ 19.Bxc4? loses. Rxg2+ 20.Kxg2 Ne3+ 21.Kh3 Nxc4-+ *( 21...Nxd1 22.Qxd1 Qxd4 23.Qxd4∓ )*]

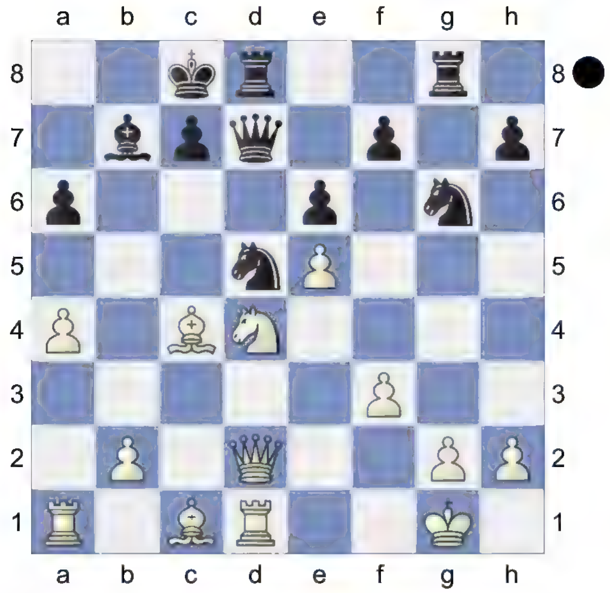
[ ⌓19.Nf3 -0.75/20 ]

(Diagram)

**19...Ng6!∓** A dynamic duo of knights. **20.Bxc4**

(Diagram)





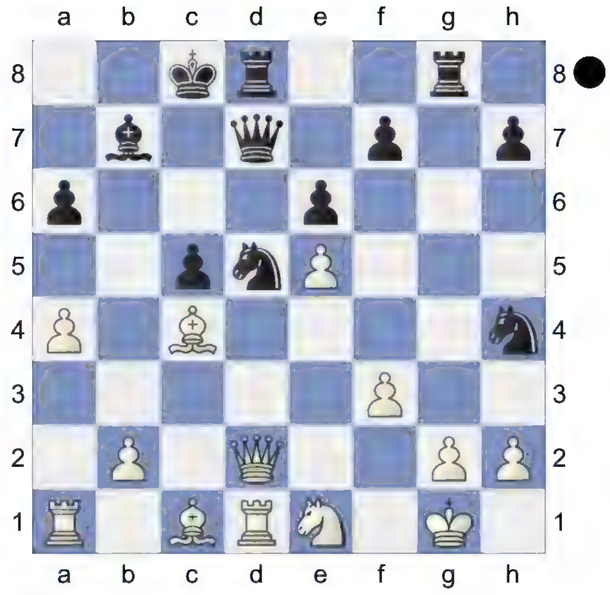
**c5!** Strongly threatening ...Nh4. **21.Nc2?** -4.05/21 This move loses the game for White.

[ 21.Ne2∓ -1.14/18 Nxe5 22.Bxd5 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 ( *23...Bxd5? 24.Kf1-+; 23...exd5 24.Ng3=* ) 24.Rxd5 exd5 25.Ng3 ]

**21...Nh4-+** Discovered Attack **22.Ne1**

[Reject 22.Bxd5 exd5 ( *22...Bxd5? 23.Ne1-+* ) 23.Ne1 Rxg2+ 24.Qxg2 Nxg2 25.Nxg2 d4-+ ]

(Diagram)



Qf2 is the strong threat. **22...Rxg2+ 23.Qxg2 Nxg2** Black is clearly winning. **24.Nxg2 Qc7 25.Bh6 Qxe5 26.Rac1 Rg8** Threatens to win with ...Ne3. **27.Bf1 Qf6 28.Rxc5+ Kb8**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.37/ Black=0.01 (flawless) . Sensor Board Error (Ke4/e5)?

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Dreev,Alexey** **2606**
■ **Isajevsky,Anton** **2404**
Speed Chess Q2 Sw blitz (4) 23.08.2023
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

B) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.exf6 Qxg5 11.fxg7 Qxg7 12.Qd2 0-0 13.Bxc4 Rd8** ...Nc6! would now be deadly. **14.Qe3** The position is equal. **14...Bd7 15.0-0 Nc6 16.Nf3 Ne7 17.Ne5 Ng6 18.f4** Hoping for Nxf7! **18...Rac8** Threatens to win with ...Nxe5. **19.Be2 Nxe5 20.fxe5 Bc6** Repels Rf3 **21.Bf3 Bd5 22.Rab1 b6 23.Rb4 Bxf3 24.Rxf3** Strongly threatening Rg3. **24...Rd1+ 25.Kf2** Rg3 is the strong threat. **25...Rcd8** 0.68/26

[ 25...Kh8!= 0.29/26 ]

**26.Rd4↑** White is pushing. **26...R1xd4 27.cxd4** Endgame. KQR-KQR **27...Kh8 28.Rg3** Inhibits Qg6. **28...Qf8 29.Qg5** Qf6+ would kill now. **29...h6 30.Qf6+ Kh7 31.Rg4** White has more active pieces. **31...Rd7 32.Kg3 b5 33.Kh4** 0.33/26

[White should try 33.Qf3± 1.00/30 ]

**33...Qh8** 1.00/26

[ 33...b4⩲ 0.33/26 ]

**34.Qf3±** White wants to mate with Qd3+. **34...Qf8 35.Kh5** 0.27/28

[ 35.Kg3± 1.02/27 ]

**35...b4 36.Qe4+ Kh8 37.Rf4** aiming for Rf6. **37...Qg8! 38.Rg4** Repels Qg5+

[ 38.Kxh6 Rxd4 *( 38...f5? 39.exf6 Rh7+* Skewer *40.Qxh7+ Qxh7+ 41.Kg5-+; 38...f5? 39.exf6 Rh7+* Skewer *40.Qxh7+ Qxh7+ 41.Kg5-+ )*]

**38...Qf8 39.Qe3?** -3.12/24

[ 39.Qf4= 0.00/27 ]

**39...f5!-+ 40.Rg6**

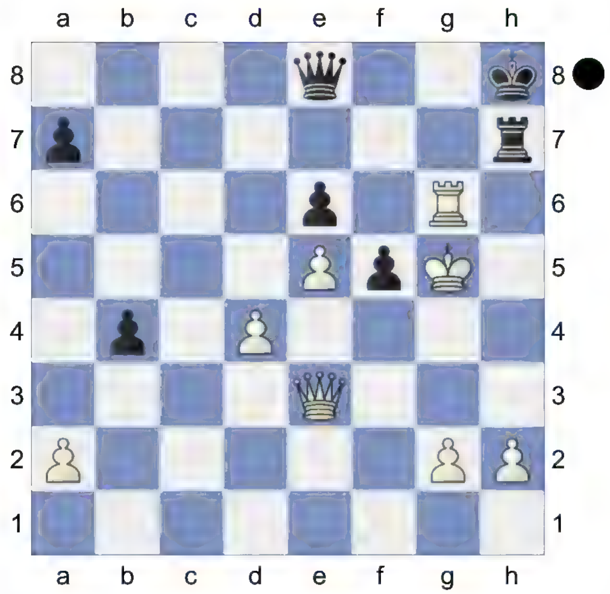
[ 40.Qxh6+ Qxh6+ 41.Kxh6 fxg4 42.Kg6 Rxd4 43.Kf7 Rd2 44.Kxe6 Rxa2 45.Kf6 b3 *( 45...Rxg2 46.e6 b3 47.e7 Re2 48.Kf7 b2 49.e8Q+ Rxe8 50.Kxe8 b1Q 51.Ke7 Qb6 52.Kd7 Kg7 53.Ke7 Qc6 54.h3 gxh3 55.Kd8 h2 56.Ke7 h1Q 57.Kd8 Qh4# )* 46.Kf5 b2 *( 46...Rxg2 47.h4 gxh3 48.Kf6 b2 49.e6 b1Q 50.e7 Qe4 51.e8Q+ Qxe8 52.Kf5 h2 53.Kf6 h1Q 54.Kf5 Qf1#; 46...Rf2+ 47.Ke6 b2 48.h4 b1Q 49.g3 Qb6+ 50.Kd5 Rd2+ 51.Ke4 Qf2 52.e6 Qf3+ 53.Ke5 Rd5# )* 47.h4 gxh3 Promotion *( 47...b1R 48.h5 Rxg2 49.Kf4 Rf2+ 50.Ke4 g3 51.e6 Re1+* Skewer *52.Kd4 g2 53.Kd3 g1Q 54.e7 Rf3+ 55.Kc4 Rf4+ 56.Kd5 Rd1+ 57.Ke6 Qe3#; 47...b1Q+ 48.Kf6 Rf2+ 49.Ke6 Qb3+ 50.Kd6 Rd2+ 51.Ke7 Kg7 52.e6 Qb4+ 53.Ke8 Qf8# )* 48.gxh3 b1Q+ *( 48...b1B+? 49.Ke6-+ )* 49.Ke6 Rd2 50.Kf6 Qf1+ 51.Kg5 Rg2+

*( 51...Qxh3 52.Kf6 Qf3+ 53.Ke7 Kg7 54.Ke8 Qf8# )* 52.Kh6 Qf4+ 53.Kh5 Qg5# ]

**40...Qe8 41.Kxh6**

[ 41.Qxh6+? too greedy. Rh7 42.g3 f4-+ *( 42...Rxh6+? 43.Kxh6 Qf8+ 44.Kg5-+ )*]

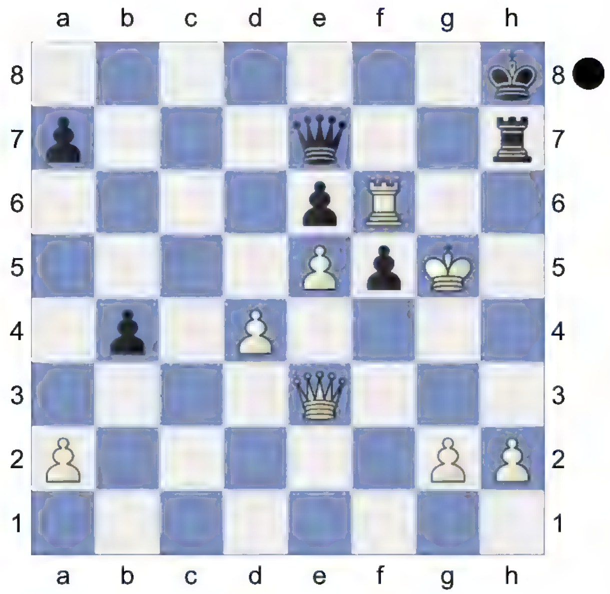
**41...Rh7+** Skewer **42.Kg5**



**Qe7+!** Black has strong compensation.

**43.Rf6?** -7.14/20

[ 43.Kf4 -2.38/20 Qh4+ *( 43...Rxh2 44.Qg3± )* 44.g4 ]



**43...Rg7+! 44.Kh4 Rg6**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.41/Black=0.06 (flawless) . Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Alekseev,Evgeny 2700**
■ **Gashimov,Vugar 2734**
Astrakhan FIDE GP (9) 19.05.2010
*[Erenburg,S, MH]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4 Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4!?** Black is striving for a more complicated game, so, he does not allow White to exchange the minor pieces. The drawback of this move is, that Black can not play e7-e6, since in this case his bishop on d7 will become misplaced. So, now it is clear that Black is going to fianchetto his dark-squared bishop. **5.e4** White is not in rush to define his pawn structure, but first completes his development. **5...Bb4 6.Bg5N** This is probably the best position for the queen. White protects his central pawn and takes control over the important b6-square.

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5

0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4** Normally in the Sicilian Black is trying to carry out the d6-d5 breakthrough in the centre or develop an initiative by pushing the pawns on the queenside. Thus, the idea of this advance is to prevent Black's counterplay. Now we have a typical position from the Maroczy: White has some space advantage, whereas Black has a strong dark-squared bishop and will seek to undermine White's centre. **8...c5!N** Getting rid of the passive bishop. **9.0-0** aiming for Nb5. Covering the d4-square and preparing to play c4-c5. **9...cxd4?!** Black had to move his queen away, but, the question is whether the c8-square is the best. **10.e5 Qd8 11.Ne4** White has compensation. White has an edge. **11...Nc6** That was the idea behind 9...♕c8. Black is attacking White's c4-pawn, but his kingside is underdeveloped, which gives White some chances.

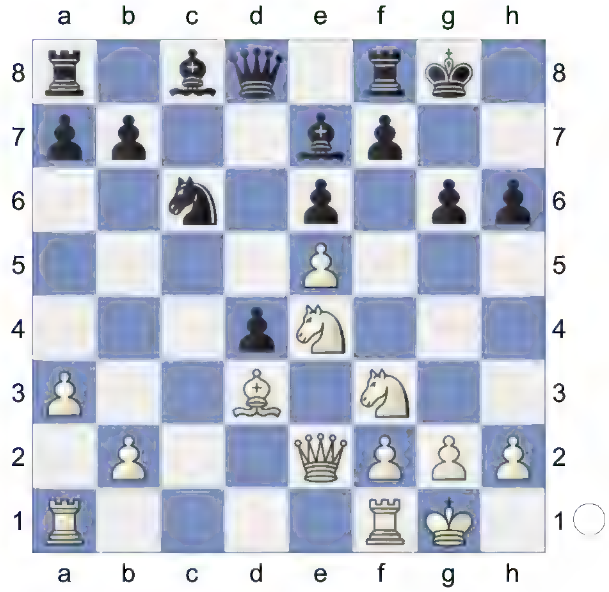
[ 11...0-0 12.Qe2

A) 12...Qb6 0.76/19 12...Qc7 0.37 13.a3 -0.03/23 It is quite difficult to believe that White can be better after giving up on his dark-squared bishop, but the activity of White's pieces does promise him a slight advantage. ( 13.g4± 0.76/19 ) 13...Be7= 14.Rad1 Rd8 15.h4 -0.52/20 ( 15.Ng3= -0.14/23 is more appropriate. ) 15...Bd7!;

B) 12...Bd7 13.Rfd1 Nc6± White's advantage is significant. 14.a3 Be7 15.b4 Qb8 leads to the game. It seems that White should be able to pose some problems for Black, but, the analysis shows that Black can hold the position in event of 16.Ng3! b5 17.Bxb5! Bd3! would now be deadly. Nxe5! 18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Nxd4! ]

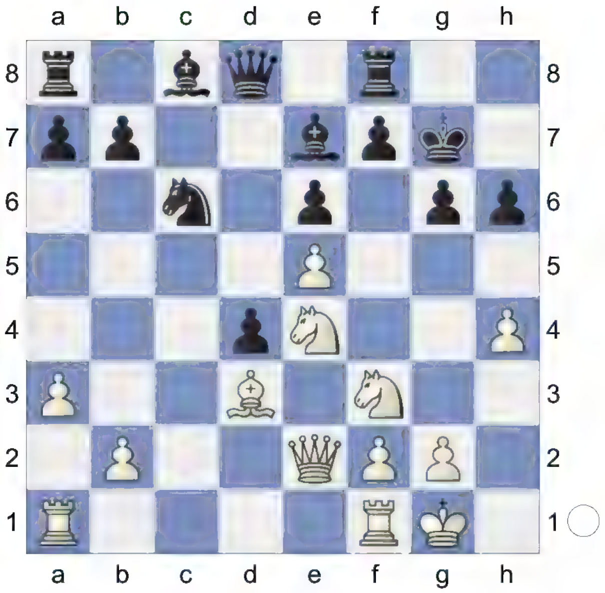
**12.a3** If White stabilises the situation, he'll be slightly better, thanks to a space advantage. So, Black has to act immediately: **12...Be7** **13.Qe2?!** Probably, after this natural move Black solves all his opening problems at once. **13...0-0 14.Bd3 g6**

[ 14...Qd5= 0.83/23 14...a5 0.31 15.Ng3! Vugar had a good reason not to be greedy in this position, since after ]



**15.h4!** White has more active pieces. The black rooks are passive.Creating the threat of capturing the e5-knight. **15...Kg7!** Protecting the e5-knight and moving the queen away from the c-file.

[ 15...Bxh4 2.04/23 15...Kg7 0.70 16.Nxh4 Qxh4≌ 17.Nf6+ is parried easily by Kh8 18.f4 ]



**16.h5! g5**

[ 16...Qd5

A) 17.Ned2= 0.60/19 17.hxg6 1.17 gxh5 1.50/18 was not worth the risk again: ( *17...g5± 0.60/19* );

B) 17.Ng3 g5 ]

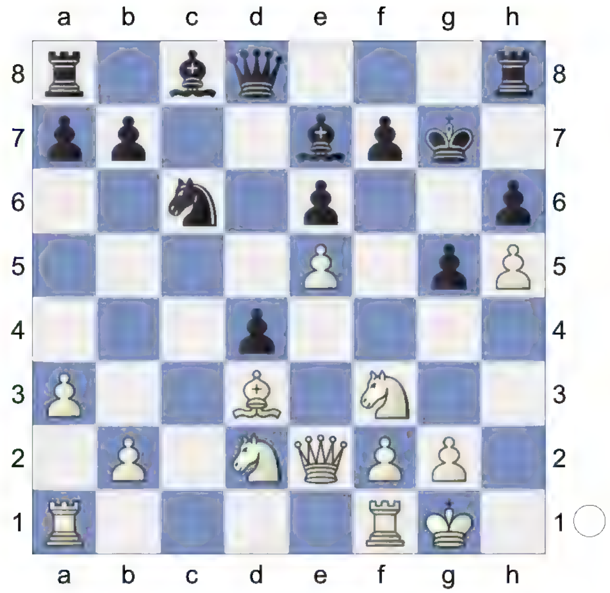
**17.Ned2 Rh8** 1.93/19

[ 17...Qd5!± 0.52/21 ]

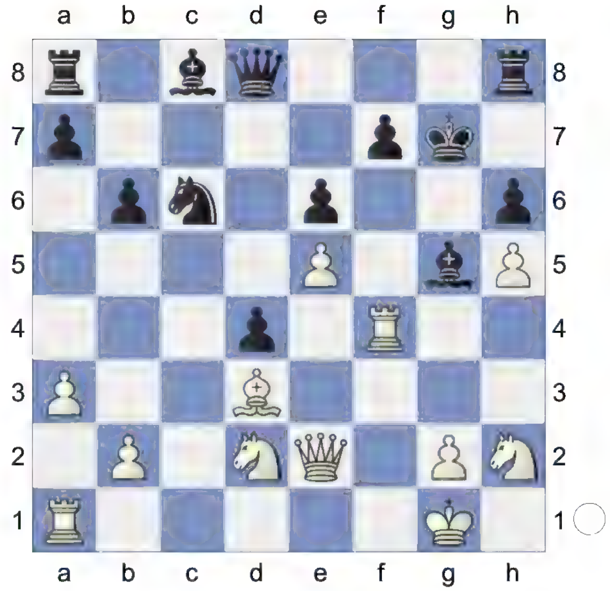
(Diagram)

**18.Nh2!+- b6=** 2.24/21 Black has solved all his opening problems. Despite White's pawn majority on the queenside, the activity of Black's pieces provide him with sufficient compensation.

[ ⌓18...Bd7 1.70/19 19.Ng4 f5 20.exf6+ Bxf6 ]



**19.f4 gxf4 20.Rxf4 Bg5**



**21.Raf1 Bxf4 22.Rxf4** Black must now prevent Nc4.Obviously, White does not give up on the only open file. **22...a5?** 2.99/22

[Not 22...Qg5? 23.Rg4+- ]

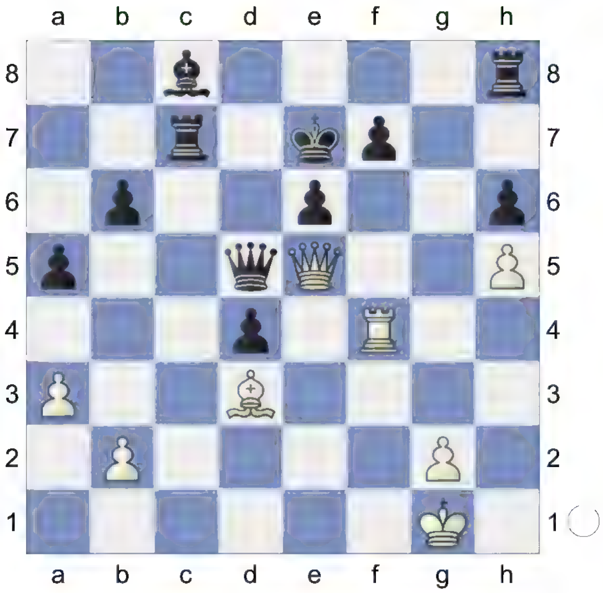
[ 22...Qc7± 1.44/18 ]

**23.Ng4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.33Covering the dark squares and intending to play f2-f4 in the near future.

[ 23.Ng4!

**A)** 23...Ra7 24.Nf6 And now Nc4 would win. Rc7 2.57/20 ( ⌓24...Qc7 1.91/20 ) 25.Qe4 1.33/23 (Better is *25.Kh2+-* 2.57/20 ) 25...Kf8? 3.85/18 ( *25...Ne7±* 1.33/23 ) White could have forced a draw with 26.Nc4+- Ke7 Against Nd6 27.Nd6 Nxe5 28.Qxe5 Qxd6 29.Nd5+= ( *29.Ng8+ Rxg8 30.Rxf7+!* was good enough for draw. There is no way to complicate the position. In the event of *30...Kxf7 31.Qxd6* , only Black can be better. ) 29...Qxd5?



30.Qf6+! Kd6 31.Rxd4↑;

**B)** 23...Qc7! 24.Nc4 b5 ( *24...Ba6 25.Nd6* ) 25.Nd6 A good prophylactic move, which protects the g5-pawn. f5 26.exf6+ Kf8 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 ( *27...Qxc8?* 8.67/20 *27...Rxc8 3. 18 28.Ne5; 27...Qxf4 28.Qxe6 Qc1+ 29.Kh2* White wants to mate with Bg6. The position is absolutely drawish, so, now that everything is exchanged, the game is over. *Qf4+ 30.Kh3* ) 28.Qxe6 Hoping for Bg6! Re8 29.Qf5 ]

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Jones,B** **2635**
■ **Akopian,Vladimir** **2681**
EU-chT (Men) 18th (3.3) 05.11.2011
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

This game was played in the third round of the European Team Championships. This year had a rather curious pairing system in place and so our prize for losing to Greece in round two was the chess powerhouse Armenia! In fact during the tournament we managed to play: Armenia, Israel, Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine all on 50%!

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6** I wasn't expecting the French but luckily had done some work before the tournament and decided to try out a new line.

**4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3**

[ 7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 Nxc3 9.Qb3= ]

**8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Bd6**

[ 8...Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1 3.♘c3 ♗b7 4.e4 ♗b4 5.f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 ]

**9.Ng5!?** Every time I look at this variation I find it faintly ridiculous. After eight moves White has developed just his knights, while the knight on d2 is misplaced and will need to move again. However, Black too has just developed his knights and the one on a6 is in a worse position than its corresponding knight on d2. I think 9.a3 is a clever idea as both knight and bishop would have liked to occupy b4.

[Instead 9.Qe2! 0-0 10.Rd1 would have been given Black great play. Nd7 11.Rd3 and Black's pieces are starting to swarm in the centre of the board. The immediate threat is ...♘g4xf2 and I would have done well to quell his initiative. Nf6? 1.42/23 ( *11...Re8=* 0.15/21 remains equal.) 12.Bg5 0.34/22 ( *12.Ne5±* 1.42/23 ) 12...Be7± 13.Ne5-+ Threatens to win with Rh3. is far too dangerous. Bd7 1.24/19 was better but Black still has decent play ( *13...Nd5!±* 0.37/19 *14.Bxe7 Qxe7* ) 14.Rh3 ]

**9...h6 10.Qh5N** White's strategy is to play against the c8-bishop and try to keep Black passively placed.

[ There was still time to go wrong and my initial thought of 10.Ne4?? would have allowed Akopian to turn the tables with 0-0 picking up my stray rook. Of course I looked at 11.Qh5 but it felt strange and after ( *11.Re1 Nd7 12.Qf3 Be7 13.Qh3 Nf6 14.Bxh6 e5 15.Qh4 gxh6 16.Qxh6 Nxe4 17.Rxe4 Qd6 18.Qh5 exd4 19.Rae1 Bf6 20.Bd3 Bf5 21.Rg4+ Bxg4 22.Qh7#* Chapter Games-Games Chapter Games 41-45 )

**A)** 11...Nd7 12.Bxh6! gxh6 13.Qxh6 Re8 14.Rae1 0.36/18 (White should play *14.Rad1±* 0.88/23 Strongly threatening Rd3. *Bf8 15.Qf4* ) 14...Bf8± is the computer's recommendation when at least I've managed to develop my bishop and coordinated somewhat.;

**B)** 11...f5 hoped White had a small something. 12.Nxd6! is an interesting computer suggestion but here too White should be a bit better following cxd6 so that I can castle.

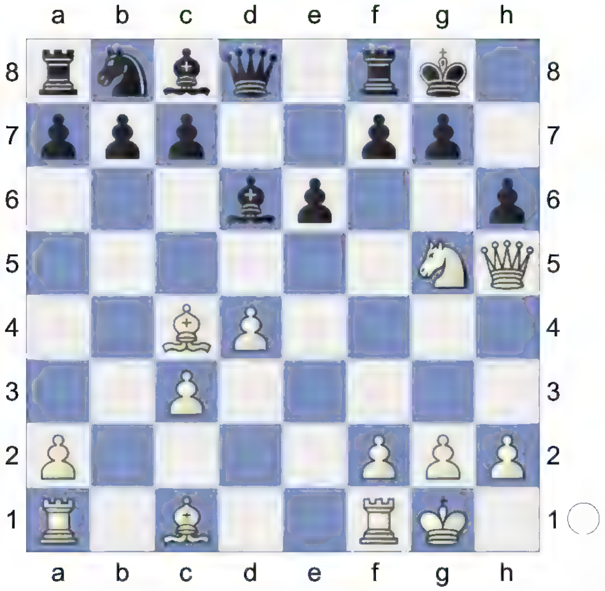
**B1)** 13.Bxh6 0.00/26 13.Re1 0.41

**B1a)** 13...Qc7 0.41/25 13...gxh6 0.00 and 14.Qg6 0.00/34 looked very scary short on time. ( *14.Rfe1!±* 0.41/25 *d5 15.Bxg7 Qxg7 16.Re3* ) The sounder option looks to be 14...d5!= 15.Bb3 Rf6! 16.Qe8+ Rf8 17.Qg6 Rf6!∞ when yet another odd looking position is reached where White's pieces are very misplaced.;

**B1b)** 13...gxh6 14.Qg6+ Kh8 15.Qxh6+ Kg8 ...Qf6 would now be deadly. is the computer's very dynamic way of playing but this wasn't the safe path I was looking for! 16.Qg6+ felt like a long term concession but was probably more accurate Kh8 was of course better. I had been analysing 17.Qh6+ two moves before hand but hadn't come to a conclusion on the assessment following Kg8!? White must now prevent ...Qf6. 18.Qg6+ when both;

**B2)** 13.Re1 Hoping for Bxh6! 13...Rf6! It's still too early to castle 14.Bf4? Na6 0.96/21 ( *14...d5±* 0.42/20 *15.Bd3 Bd7* ) 15.Re3 Nc7 1.06/21 ( *15...Qf8±* 0.64/21 ) 16.Rae1 0.00/23 (White should try *16.Rg3±* 1.06/21 *Kf8 17.Rg6* ) 16...Qe8 when I would be forced to part with my dark squared bishop with a pretty horrible position. 17.Qf3 ]

**10...0-0**



A natural move that I had overlooked in my analysis and I was now on my own. **11.Re1!?** -0.28/22 A double-edged decision. On the one hand White gains space and forces the knight to move again, and of course the main strategy of preventing Black activating his light squared bishop. However on the other hand I now have to be careful not to allow Black strong counterplay with an ... a5 break. **11...hxg5=** **12.Bxg5** **Be7**

[ 12...Qd7? 4.07/27 12...Be7 -0.30

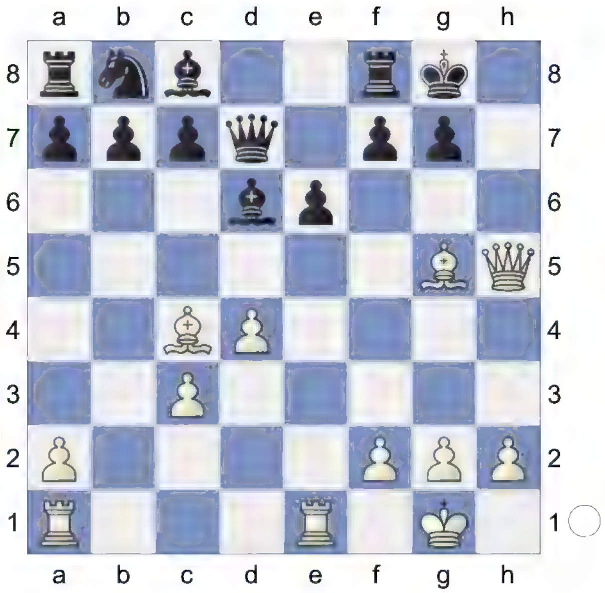
(Diagram)

13.Bf6! ]

**13.Bd3!** **f5!** After a long think Akopian comes up with this surprising sacrifice, evidently a sign he didn't like his position if he continued normally.

[ 13...Bxg5 14.Qh7# ]

[ 13...g6? 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Qxg6+ Kh8 16.Re5+- ]

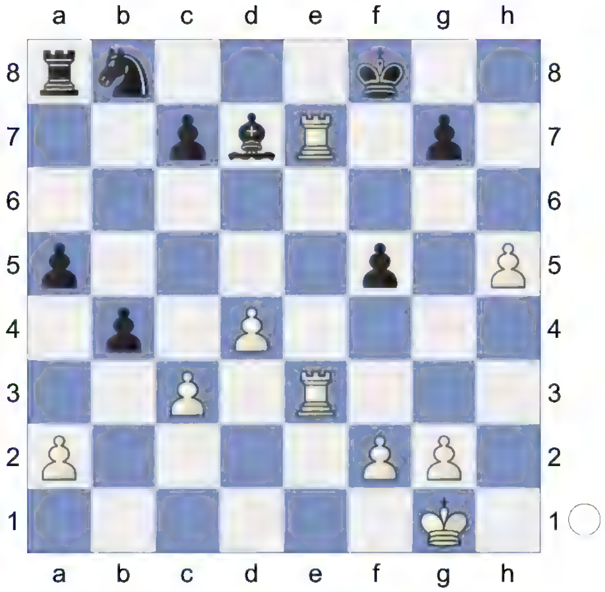


**14.Bxe7** **Qxe7** The logical continuation of the previous move. **15.Bxf5!** **Rxf5** **16.Qxf5** Now, however, this square is available and relatively safe. **16...exf5** 0.19/17

[ 16...Nc6 ]

[ ⌓16...Nc6 -0.18/23 17.Qe4 Qf7 ]

**17.Rxe7** **Bd7** Against Re8+ **18.Rae1** White has compensation.I had various ideas of playing ♗d4 to block the queen out of the game but then I cede control of e4 allowing Black dangerous threats. **18...b5** The wrong knight. **19.h4** **a5** **20.h5** **b4** **21.R1e3** **Kf8**



**22.h6!** Starting to get short on time I decided to repeat once before trying to find a way to make progress. **22...gxh6** Akopian starts to get too ambitious and misses my reply. **23.Rh7!** Taking some dark squares and defending against the threat of ...e6-e5 as my knight is no longer attacked. **23...Kg8** **24.Rxh6** Developing my bishop and preventing ...♗d8-a5. **24...f4**

[ 24...Kg7 25.Rh4 Ra6 26.cxb4! Reaching the time control. axb4 27.Re7+! Kf8! Now I had some breathing space and could calmly consider how best to convert my extra piece. I think my plan of targeting f7 is the easiest.
28.Reh7 ]

**25.Rf3** I calculated the game continuation when I played this move and thought that that should give me some small chances. **25...Nc6** 0.75/26

[ 25...Ra6!= 0.27/24 26.Rh4 Rf6 ]

**26.Rxf4** 0.23/25 Perhaps an error but it's understandable to want to exchange off some pieces here.

[ 26.Rf6± 0.75/26 Ne7 27.R6xf4 ]

**26...Kg7**

[ 26...bxc3? #4/22 26...Ne7 0.27 27.Rg6+ Kh7 28.Rg3 ]

[ 26...bxc3 27.Rg6+ Kh7 28.Rg3 ]

**27.Rh5 Kg6** 1.08/23 Repels Rg5+

[ 27...Ne7= 0.30/24 ]

**28.Rc5 Re8** 2.33/21 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[ 28...Ra7± 0.95/20 might work better. 29.Re4 Kf6 ]

**29.cxb4+- axb4** Time trouble starts to rear its ugly head. **30.d5 Re1+** 2.34/5

[ ⌓30...Ne5 1.65/21 ]

**31.Kh2 Ne5 32.Rxc7!** A move I was proud of during the game. The rook comes to the king's assistance along the second rank and can block any checks on the e file. **32...Re2 33.Kg3**

[ Weaker is 33.Rxb4 Rxa2 34.Kg3 Ra3+ 35.f3 Kf6 36.Rf4+ Bf5± ]

**33...Nd3?** 4.56/22

[ 33...Rxa2 2.21/19 is a better defense. 34.Rxb4 Ra3+ 35.f3 Kf6 36.Rb6+ Kg5 ]

**34.Rd4** White is clearly winning.

[ And not 34.Rxd7 Nxf4 35.Kxf4 Rxf2+ 36.Ke5 Rxa2= ]

**34...Bf5 35.d6 Ne5 36.Re7!** Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.29 (precise) Quite a pretty move. Castling gives my king a bit more cover and is the correct move, I think this is the first time I've been pleased with castling into the attack!

[ 36.Rxb4 Rxa2 37.Rb5 Kf6± ]

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Werle,Jan** **2540**
■ **Kriebel,Tadeas** **2531**
Novy Bor m2 (3) 22.08.2019
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.a4** White is slightly better.

[ 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗g5 c6 393 (2539) TCh-RUS Sochi RUS 2005 ]

**8...a6N**

[ 8...Qd7 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0 *( 10.a5*

*Nxa5 11.Rxa5 Bb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxa5* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ) 10...Na5 Quickstarter Guide-Vienna – Main Line 5.e4 #2 11.Ng5 h6 12.Ne4 Bb7 13.Nc5 Bxc5 14.dxc5 Nd5 15.Ra3 a6 16.Nd4 Ne7 17.Qd2 Qd5 18.Rg3 Qxc5 19.b4 cxb3 20.Ba3 Qxa3 21.Qxa5 Bd5 22.Rxg7 c5 23.Bh5 cxd4 24.Rxf7 Kd7 25.Bg4 Kc6 (45) Model Games-Carlsen,M ]

**9.Nc3** Threatens to win with a5. **9...a5! 10.Be2 Nc6 11.Bg5** -0.20/23

[ 11.0-0 0.20/21 is superior. ]

**11...Qd7 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Nb5 Be7** 0.59/22

[ 13...Bb4= 0.04/20 ]

**14.Qc1** -0.14/22

[ 14.Rc1⩲ 0.59/22 ]

**14...Bxg5 15.Qxg5 0-0 16.Rfc1 Na7 17.Na3 Bd5 18.Qh4** -0.31/20

[ 18.Nxc4= 0.15/23 deserves consideration. Nxc4 19.Bxc4 ]

**18...Nc6⩱ 19.Nc2 Rad8 20.Nd2 f6 21.exf6 Rxf6** And now ...Rh6 would win. **22.f3 Rdf8 23.Rd1 Ne7** -0.05/20

[Black should play 23...Qe8⩱ -0.69/20 ]

**24.Ne3= Ng6**

[ 24...Nxa4?! 25.Ndxc4 ( *25.Nexc4 Qb5⩲* ) 25...Bxc4 26.Nxc4± ]

**25.Qf2 Nf4! 26.Kh1 Rg6**

[ 26...Nxa4?! 27.Ndxc4 Nxe2 28.Qxe2± ]

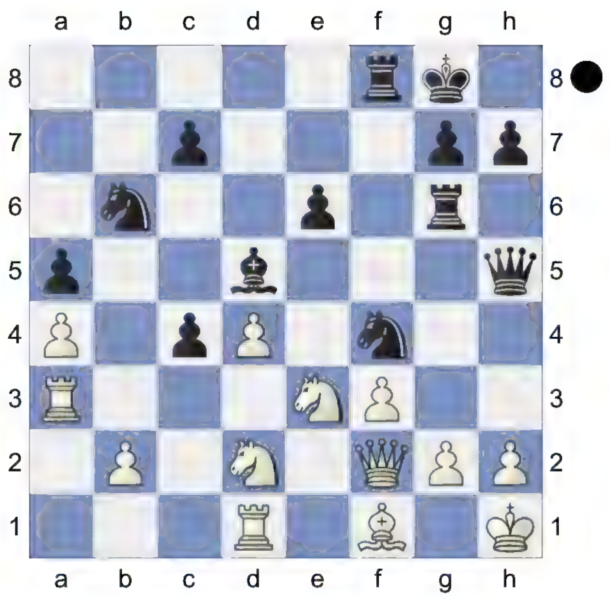
**27.Bf1 Qe7** Wards off Ra3 **28.Qe1 Qg5 29.Qf2 Qh5** 0.63/20

[ 29...Nh3= 0.00/23 30.Qe2 ( *30.gxh3? Bxf3+ 31.Nxf3 Rxf3-+* Double Attack ) 30...Nf4 ]

**30.Ra3?** -1.63/19

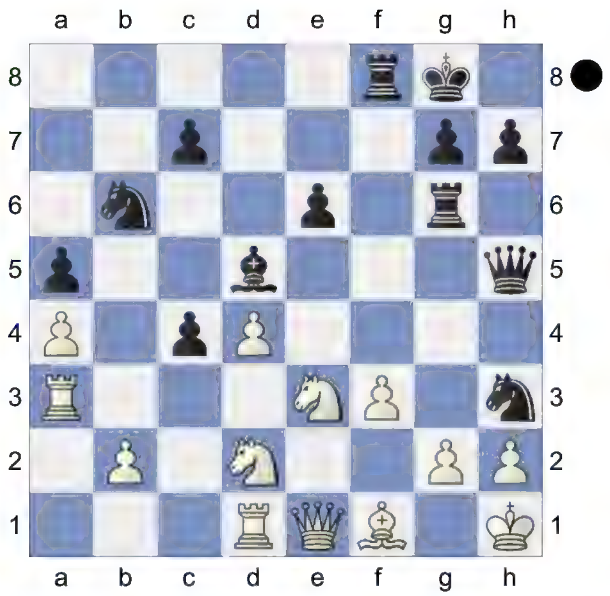
[ 30.Re1⩲ 0.63/20 stays ahead. ]

(Diagram)



**30...Nh3!-+ 31.Qe1**

[ 31.gxh3? loses. Rxf3 ( *31...Bxf3+? 32.Nxf3 Qxf3+ 33.Qxf3+-* ) 32.Nxf3 Bxf3+ 33.Ng2 Bxg2+ ( *33...Bxd1? 34.Rg3-+* ) 34.Bxg2 Qxd1+ 35.Qf1 Qxd4-+ ]



**31...Bxf3! 32.Nxf3 Qxf3→** Remove Defender, Back Rank. Black has strong attack. **33.Rd2** -4.72/26

[ 33.Ng4 -1.90/20 only move. Qd5 ( *33...Qxg4 34.Rxh3 Rgf6 35.Be2⩱* ) 34.Rxh3 Rxg4 35.Re3 ]

**33...Nf2+?** -1.54/20

[ 33...Qe4-+ -4.72/26 and Black stays clearly on top. ...Rgf6 would now be deadly. 34.Rd1 Nf2+ 35.Kg1 Nxd1 36.Qxd1 Rf4 ]

**34.Kg1∓** White does not recover from this. **34...Nh3+** Excellent horsemanship. **35.Kh1 Qe4** Strongly threatening ...Rgf6. **36.Re2 Rgf6** ( -> ...Qxe3!) **37.Ra1 Nf2+ 38.Kg1 Qxd4** White must now prevent ...Nd5. **39.Qxa5** -7.60/18

[ 39.Qc3 -3.54/19 Qc5 40.Ree1 ]

**39...Nd5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.54/ Black=0.29 (precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Bernadskiy,Vitaliy** **2612**

■ **Msellek,Ilyass** **2406**

Titled Tuesday intern op 21st Feb Late bl..

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5** And now ...a6 would win. **7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Be3 0-0 11.a3 Qd7**

[ 11...Rb8 12.Rc1 Ba6 13.Nc3 Na5 14.Qc2 h6 15.Ne4 Nd5 16.Nfd2 c5 17.dxc5 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qd5 19.Nxc4 Nxc4 20.Bxc4 Bxc4 21.Qxc4 Qxe5 22.b4 f5 23.Nf2 Bg5 24.e4 Bxc1 25.Rxc1 Qf4 26.exf5 0-1 (40) 6.♘bd2 ♗b7 7.e4 d5 (2297)-Buerger,A (2186) Santiago m Santiago de Chile 1997 (4) ]

**12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Qc2 Na5 14.Rad1N Rab8 15.Nd2 Bc6 16.Nde4 Bxe4 17.Nxe4 Qa4! 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Na4 20.Bd2 Nb3 21.Be3**

[Stronger than 21.Bxc4 Nxd4 22.Rcc1 Rxb2∓ ( *22...Nxb2 23.Ba6∓* )]

**21...Na5 22.Rb1 Rb7 23.Bd2 Nb3 24.Rxc4 Nb6 25.Rc3 Nd5** A dynamic duo of knights. **26.Rd3 Nxd2! 27.Nxd2 Nf4! 28.Re3 Nxe2+ 29.Rxe2 Rd8! 30.Re4 c5 31.Kf1 Rxd4** 0.40/23

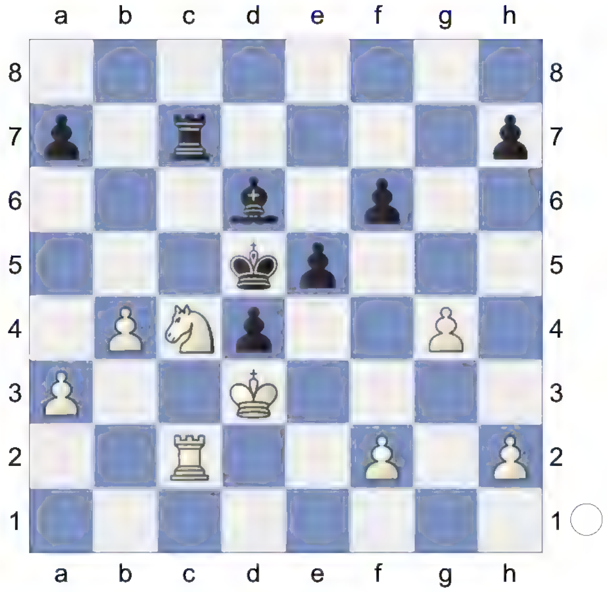
[ 31...cxd4= 0.00/21 was preferrable. 32.g3 Rd5 ]

**32.Rxd4± cxd4=** Endgame. KRB-KRN **33.Ke2 f6 34.exf6** 0.00/25

[ 34.Kd3± 0.46/23 should be considered. ]

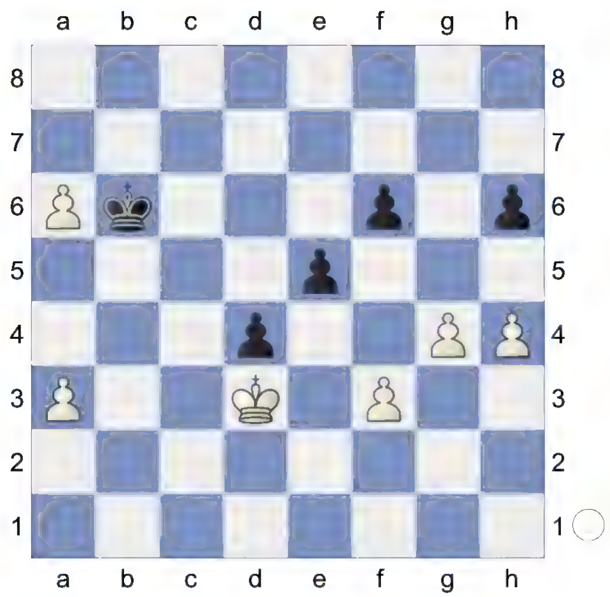
**34...gxf6 35.Kd3 e5 36.b4 Rc7** Prevents Rc1. **37.Nc4 Kf7 38.Rc1** Strongly threatening Nxe5+! **38...Ke6 39.g4 Bd6 40.Rc2** Nxd6 is the strong threat. **40...Kd5** 5.59/24

[ 40...Rf7= 0.00/25 ]



**41.Nxd6!+-** White is clearly winning. **41...Rxc2 42.Kxc2 Kxd6** KP-KP **43.Kd3 Kd5** Hoping for ...e4+. **44.f3 a5 45.bxa5 Kc6 46.h4 h6 47.a6 Kb6**

(Diagram)



**48.f4!**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.27 (precise)

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Khismatullin,Denis** **2656**

■ **Matlakov,Maxim** **2632**

Khanty Mansiysk (7) 06.09.2011

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Black tried a fresh and interesting approach in a rather complex line but he still found himself under pressure, which he failed to resist. White missed some decisive options on the way and the game ended peacefully after mutual inaccuracies. **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6** This pawn advance has gained some popularity these last few years.

[ 6...c5 is the main road of the Vienna Variation. ]

**7.Bxf6**

[ 7.Bh4? is simply met by g5 8.Bg3 Nxe4 with a clear advantage. ]

**7...Qxf6 8.Bxc4** White granted his opponent a pair of bishops but he won some time for development and gained a superiority in the center.

[In case of 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Bxc4 White stops his opponent's ...c7-c5 but his queen is not so great on a4:

**A)** 9...0-0 10.0-0 Bxc3 ( *10...Bd7!?* ) 11.bxc3 e5 12.Bd5± Ftacnik - Mirzoev, Lisbon 2001;

**B)** 9...Bd7!? 10.Bb5 (or *10.Qb3 Ba5!?* , shifting the bishop to b6) 10...0-0 ( *10...Bxc3+!? 11.bxc3 Qg6 12.0-0 Qxe4 13.Rfe1 Qf4 14.d5 Qxa4 15.Bxa4 Nd8∞* ) 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 a6 13.Bxc6 ( *13.Bd3 e5 14.d5 b5* ) 13...Bxc6 14.Qc2 Qf4 followed by ...f7-f5 with good counterplay. ]

[In some games White included 8.e5

**A)** 8...Qe7 might be weaker: 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 ( *10...0-0?! 11.d5* ) 11.Ne4 and Black might face additional problems with his bishop on b4. For example, 0-0 12.Qxd4 Rd8 (or *12...Nc6 13.Qe3* , Moyses - Nowarra, corr. 1943 and Van der Sterren - Petursson, Munich 1989) 13.Qe3 Bd7 14.Rad1 Bc6? 15.Nf6+! Kh8 ( *15...gxf6 16.Qxh6 Nd7 17.Rxd7! Qf8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Qxf6* ) 16.Rxd8+ Qxd8 17.Ng5! Qe7 18.Qd3 g6 19.Bxe6!+- with a decisive attack, G.Flear - Condie, Bath zt 1987;

**B)** 8...Qd8

**B1)** in case of 9.Qa4+ Nc6 10.Bxc4 Bd7 11.Qc2

**B1a)** 11...Na5 does not solve the problems:

**B1a1)** 12.Be2!? also promises the better chances: c5 13.dxc5 Rc8

14.a3 Bxc5 15.0-0 Be7 16.Rfd1± In the game Edouard - Magem Badals, Barcelona 2010, Black collapsed very quickly: Qc7 17.Qd3!? ( *17.Rac1!?* was simpler, according to Edouard since Black couldn't castle: *0-0 18.b4 Nc6 19.Nb5* with a big advantage ) 17...Nc4?! 18.Qd4! Nb6 19.Ne4 0-0 20.Nf6+! Kh8? 21.Nxd7 Rcd8 22.Bb5 Nxd7 23.Bxd7 and Black resigned.;

**B1a2)** 12.Bd3 c5 13.dxc5 Rc8 14.a3 Bxc5 15.0-0 ( *15.b4 Bb6* ) 15...0-0 16.Rad1 Be7 17.Qe2 This position arose in the game Ivanchuk - Kramnik, Moscow 2009. Here Black could have tried the more active Qb6!? ( *17...Qc7 18.Qe4 g6 19.Qg4* gave White good attacking prospects ) 18.Qe4 ( *18.Bh7+ Kxh7 19.Rxd7 Rfe8* looks bearable) 18...g6 19.Qg4 h5 20.Qf4 Kg7 21.Ne4 Ba4!? 22.Rde1 but Black's K-side is still in danger.;

**B1b)** 11...Ne7! is the best response: 12.0-0 Bc6 13.Ne4 Nd5 14.a3 Be7 15.Rac1 a5!? 16.Rfe1 a4 17.Ba2 Nb6 18.Qe2 Bxe4!? 19.Qxe4 c6 20.Red1 Ra5 21.Ne1 Nd5 22.Nd3 h5!? 23.Rc2 g6 and Black has gradually solved his problems and eventually won the game, Alekseev - Grischuk, Plovdiv 2010.;

**B2)** 9.Bxc4 c5

**B2a)** 10.d5!? might be playable: exd5 11.Bxd5 ( *11.Qxd5 Qxd5 12.Bxd5 Nc6 13.0-0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Be6* is fine for Black. In the game Polak - Movsesian, Hustopece 2011, he managed to score a full point after *15.Rd2?! 0-0-0 16.Rhd1 Kc7 17.Kc2 Rhe8 18.Bxe6 fxe6 19.c4 Rxd2+ 20.Rxd2 Rf8* ) 11...0-0 12.Rc1 Nc6 13.0-0 Nd4

**B2a1)** after 14.Nxd4 Bxc3 15.Nf3 Bxb2 16.Rxc5 ( *16.Bxf7+?! Kxf7 17.Qb3+ Be6 18.Qxb7+ Kg8 19.Qxb2 Rxf3! 20.gxf3 Qg5+ 21.Kh1 Bd5 22.Rc3 Qxe5* with initiative) 16...Qb6 17.Qc2 Bf5! 18.Qc4 Bd3! 19.Qxd3 Qxc5 20.e6 g6! 21.exf7+ Kg7 22.Nh4 Qb6! Black holds on;

**B2a2)** 14.Be4 Re8 and here in the game Aronian - Kramnik, Moscow 2009, White could have maintained some pressure by 15.a3!? ( *15.Nd5 Bf5 16.Bxf5 Qxd5* was okay for Black ) 15...Ba5 16.Na4 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Rxe5 18.Nxc5 , as was pointed out by Igor Stohl.;

**B2b)** 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Ne4 0-0 would be a transposition to the actual game. ]

**8...c5** Black attacks his opponent's

center without delay.

[ 8...0-0 9.0-0 c5 gives White a wider choice: 10.e5 Qd8 and here the concrete

**A)** 11.Ne4 cxd4 would be a transposition to the game.;

**B)** 11.a3 is well met by

**B1)** in the old game Bogoljubow - Tartakower, Maehrisch Ostrau 1923, Black got a worse position after 11...cxd4?! 12.axb4 dxc3 13.bxc3 Qc7 14.Qe2 Bd7 *( 14...b6!? )* 15.b5;

**B2)** 11...Bxc3 12.bxc3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bd7 The game Greenfeld - Reinaldo Castineira, Presolana 2011 continued 14.d5 exd5 15.Qxd5 Bc6 16.Qxd8 Rxd8 17.e6 Bxf3 18.exf7+ Kf8 19.gxf3 Nc6 20.Rae1 Nd4 and here, in a somewhat better position, Black offered a draw.;

**C)** 11.d5 Bxc3 *( 11...exd5? 12.Nxd5± )* 12.bxc3 exd5 13.Bxd5 *( 13.Qxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxd5 Nd7!?* is fine for Black*)* 13...Nc6 14.Bxc6 *(*or *14.Rb1 Qc7* Evdokimov - Meier, Marrakesh 2010*)* 14...bxc6 15.Qa4 Be6!? *( 15...Qc7 16.Rfd1 Be6 17.Qa3 c4 18.Rd6 Bd5 19.Nd4 Qe7* was also acceptable for Black, Gligoric - Karaklajic, Sarajevo 1951*)* 16.Qxc6 Qa5 17.Rfc1 Rad8=∞ with active play for the pawn, Esen - Tukhaev, Ankara 2009.;

**D)** 11.dxc5!? is worth considering: 11...Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 Bxc3 *( 12...Bxc5 13.Rac1⩲ )* 13.bxc3 Nd7 *( 13...Bd7 14.Rab1 )* 14.c6 bxc6 15.Rd6⩲ with a certain pressure in the ending. ]

**9.0-0**

[ 9.e5 Qd8 10.0-0 is a transposition. ]

**9...cxd4 10.e5**

[ 10.Qa4+?! Nc6 11.Bb5 is futile: 0-0 12.Bxc6 and here, in the game Goglidze -Alatortsev, Leningrad 1936, it was simpler to grab the knight: dxc3!⩱ ]

[ 10.Nb5 has its point but Black gets acceptable play by Qe7 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Nxa7 Bc5 *( 12...Bd7 13.Nb5 Nc6 14.Qe3 Rfc8 15.Qe2⩲* Antic - Solomunovic, Bar 2005*)* 13.Nxc8 Rxc8 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.Qe2 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4=∞ with compensation thanks to his strong bishop, Lysyj - Movsesian, EU-ch Rijeka 2010. Yet White still has the extra pawn so it might not be to everyone's taste to play for a draw in such style. ]

**10...Qd8 11.Ne4**

[ 11.Nxd4!? is less ambitious: 0-0 *( 11...Bc5?! 12.Bb5+ Ke7? 13.Qg4!; 11...Bxc3!? 12.bxc3 0-0 )* 12.Rc1 Bd7 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Rxc3 Nc6 15.Nf3 Qb6 16.Qe2 Ne7! and Black equalises, F.Costa - Conato, corr. 2008. However, White may still try to work out a slight edge. ]

**11...0-0**

[The natural 11...Nc6 might not be the most efficient way to oppose White's plans: 12.a3 Be7 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Bd3 *(*or *14.Ng3 Re8 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.Qe4 g6 17.b4 Bf8 18.h4 Bg7 19.h5* with an annoying initiative, Tregubov - Schenk, GER-chT 2010*)* 14...g6 15.h4 Kg7 *( 15...Bxh4?! 16.Nxh4 Qxh4 17.Nf6+ Kh8 18.f4↑ )* 16.h5 The game Akopian - Ivanchuk, Astrakhan 2010, continued g5 17.Ned2 Rh8 18.Nh2 b6 19.f4!? *( 19.Ng4!? )* 19...gxf4 20.Rxf4 Bg5 21.Raf1! Bxf4 22.Rxf4 a5 23.Ng4 and here Black suddenly resigned though he could still try to defend by Ra7 24.Nf6 Ne7 ]

**12.Qe2** The point of White's set-up is that he is not going to restore the material balance. Instead, he plans rather dangerous play on the K-side, with Bc4-d3, Ne4-g3, Qe2-e4, h2-h4 etc.

[Of course, 12.Qxd4?! Qxd4 13.Nxd4 Nd7 would be too good for Black. ]

**12...Qb6!?** A concrete approach. Black is going to strengthen his d4-pawn with the rook, at the same time leaving the f8-square for his knight.

[The main alternative is 12...Bd7 with a possible idea of shifting the bishop to c6 and the knight to d7, where it has good prospects, not only keeping pressure on the e5-pawn but also heading to c5 or f8, depending on the situation. However it seems that Black is unable to bring such plans into fruition:

A) 13.Rfd1 was also played: Nc6 *( 13...Bc6? 14.Rxd4 Qe7 15.Rad1 Nd7* fails to *16.Bb5! Rad8 17.Bxc6 bxc6 18.Qc4 c5 19.Rd6* with a huge advantage, Stefanova - Kochetkova, EU-ch Tbilisi 2011*)* 14.a3 Be7 15.b4 *( 15.Bd3!? )* 15...Qb8 16.Ng3 b5!? 17.Bxb5 and here in the game Grischuk - Aronian, Linares 2010, Black should have preferred a5! and if 18.bxa5 then Nxe5! 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Nxd4 Nc5 with good play.;

B) 13.Rad1 Nc6 14.a3! *( 14.Ng3?!* is a serious inaccuracy as it allows Black to rearrange his pieces in time: *Bc5! 15.Qe4 Ne7 16.Qg4 Bc6 17.Ne4* and here, in the game L'Ami - Miroshnichenko, GER-chT 2011, White could have faced problems after *Qc7!* since *18.Nxc5 Bxf3* favours Black (L'Ami) *)* 14...Be7 and now 15.Bd3! and, according to Erwin L'Ami, it is very difficult for Black to parry White's thematic attacking plan: Qc7 16.Ng3 Rad8 *( 16...g6 17.h4 h5 18.Nxh5! )* 17.h4 and so on. ]

[ 12...b6 is a bit passive: 13.Rfd1 *( 13.Rad1!? )* 13...Nc6 14.Bb5 Bb7 15.Bxc6 Bxc6 16.Nxd4 Qd5 17.Nxc6 Qxc6 18.Rac1 Qb7 19.Qg4 with pressure, Agrest - Steingrimsson, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010 ]

[while 12...Nd7!? deserves attention: 13.a3 Be7 The game Beliavsky - Pelletier, Porto Carras 2011, continued 14.Ng3 *( 14.Rad1!?; 14.Rfd1!? )* 14...b5! 15.Bxb5 Qb6 16.b4 Rd8 17.Bd3 Bb7 and Black successfully distracted White from his K-side plans. Then after 18.Nd2 Bd5 19.Nh5 a5! 20.Nf4 axb4 21.Nxd5 exd5 22.axb4 Bxb4 23.Nf3 Bc3 24.Rxa8 Rxa8 Black has obtained the better chances. ]

**13.Rfd1**

[ In the game Bromberger - Ragger, Bahia Feliz 2011, White began with 13.Ng3 and after Bd7 *( 13...Rd8!? )* 14.a3 Be7 15.Rad1 Rd8 16.Rxd4 Bc6 17.Rg4 has also obtained good attacking chances on the K-side. However, Black's play could have been improved. ]

[ 13.Rad1!? also comes to mind. ]

**13...Rd8 14.Ng3 Bd7**

[ Developing the knight could hardly make Black's defence easier: 14...Nd7?! 15.Rxd4 Nf8 16.Rg4 etc. ]

**15.Rxd4 Bc6 16.Rg4** Compare to the above-mentioned game Bromberger -

Ragger, Bahia Feliz 2011, the moves a2-a3 and ...Bb4-e7 have not been included so Black has a good opportunity to protect the g7-square without delay. Yet White also saved time as he did not touch his a-pawn. **16...Bf8 17.Nh5 Nd7 18.Nd4 Kh8 19.Re1 Rac8 20.h4** White brings more resources into play but Black's position is rather solid. **20...Nb8?** This is passive.

[The more active 20...Nc5!? was worth considering. Then an attempt to shift the queen to the K-side by 21.Qe3 could have been strongly met by Be4! ]

[ Another way to somehow disturb White's plans could be 20...Qa5!? ]

**21.Qe3 Bxg2?** This tactical blow only promotes White's attack but Black's task already seemed rather grim.

[Perhaps the cautious 21...Be8 was more tenacious: 22.Qg3 g6 23.Bxe6! fxe6 *( 23...Rxd4 24.Bxc8 Rxg4 25.Qxg4 gxh5 26.Qxh5± )* 24.Rxg6 Bxg6 25.Qxg6 Nd7 26.Nxe6 Re8 27.Nxf8 Qxg6 28.Nxg6+ Kh7 29.Nhf4 Rc2 30.e6 Nf6 31.Ne5 and White's powerful K-side pawns give him a tangible advantage. ]

**22.Bxe6!?** Too enthusiastic though not bad. Perhaps White felt obliged to return the favour.

[The cool 22.Qg3! was simple and strong - White's attack along the g-file was unbearable: g5 *( 22...Rxd4 23.Rxg7 )* 23.Nxe6! fxe6 24.Kxg2 and so on. ]

[ If White wanted to deliver some blow then 22.Nf6! was a good idea: gxf6 23.Rxg2 Nc6 24.Qg3 Ne7 25.Nxe6! fxe6 26.exf6 Qc7 27.Re5! Rd1+ 28.Kh2 Ng6 29.Qxg6 Bd6 30.f7! Bxe5+ 31.Rg3 Bxg3+ 32.fxg3 and Black has to give up his queen: Qxf7 33.Qxf7 Rxc4 34.Qxe6 Rd2+ 35.Kh3 Rc6 36.Qe5+ Kh7 37.Qe7+ Kg8 38.Qxb7+- with a technical win. ]

**22...fxe6**

[ 22...Bh3!? was more stubborn, though it couldn't extinguish White's initiative: 23.Qxh3 fxe6 24.Qg3 Rd7 25.Ne2↑ etc. ]

**23.Kxg2 Rd7**

[ 23...Rc4 failed to 24.Nf6! *( 24.Rd1 Nc6 25.Nxg7! Bxg7 26.Rxg7! Kxg7 27.Nxe6+ Kh7 28.Nxd8 Qxe3 29.fxe3 Nxe5 30.Rd5± )* 24...gxf6 25.Qg3 Bg7 26.Rxg7 Qxd4 27.Qg6 and Black has the only defence Qg4+ 28.Qxg4 Rxg4+ 29.Rxg4+- , which of course cannot help. ]

**24.Qg3?**

[ 24.Rg1! Rc4 25.Kh3!+- with the idea Qe3xh6! could have finished the game instantly. ]

**24...Rc4 25.Qf4?!**

[ 25.Rf4! was more energetic: Bc5 26.Rd1 Rcxd4 27.Rdxd4 Bxd4 28.Rf8+ Kh7 29.Nf6+ , mating. ]

**25...Qd8** Now White cannot take on e6. **26.Re4! Qe8 27.Qf3 Nc6 28.Nxe6?** Another mistake spoils all the advantage.

[ 28.Ref4! was the right way: Bc5 29.Nf6! Nxd4 *( 29...gxf6 30.Rxf6 Rh7 31.Rxe6 Qf7 32.Re8+ Qxe8 33.Qf6+ )* 30.Rxd4 Rdxd4 31.Rxg7!! Rg4+ 32.Rxg4 Rxg4+ 33.Qxg4+- and White wins. ]

**28...Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Qxe6 30.Qxf8+ Kh7** Now Black is okay - White's king is not quite safe. Most probably both sides were already in time trouble, which explains all the inaccuracies. **31.Qf4 Rf7?!**

[ 31...Re7! was more accurate. ]

**32.Qe3 Ne7 33.Nf4 Qg4+ 34.Qg3 Qf5 35.Qd3?**

[ The solid 35.f3! could have secured the extra pawn. ]

**35...Ng6!** Suddenly White is in trouble! **36.e6 Re7?** Black returns the favour.

[ 36...Rf6! could have given him the upper hand: 37.Nh3 Rxe6! and White loses his h4-pawn. ]

**37.Nxg6 Qxg6+ 38.Kf1 Rxe6 39.Rd4 Qxd3+ 40.Rxd3 Re7** Draw agreed.

½-½

**D24**

☐ **Halkias,Stelios 2600**
■ **Morozevich,Alexander 2694**
FIDE World Cup (1.4) 30.08.2011
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

An early pawn sacrifice in the Vienna Variation looks interesting but here Alexander Morozevich convincingly solved all the problems and scored the full point. At the moment it is unclear if White can get more than just sufficient compensation for the pawn.

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Ne5** Qg4 is the strong threat. White has compensation. **9...0-0 10.Qg4** And now Bh6 would win. **10...Nc6**

[ Other options fail to completely extinguish White's initiative: 10...Kh8 11.Bd3 Black must now prevent Qh5. f5 12.Qh3 Qe8 Prevents Ng6+. 13.Re1 , Kasimdzhanov - Gelfand/ Candidates Elista (m/4) 2007 ]

[ 10...Nd7 1.11/19 10...Nc6 0.36 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rad1 , Halkias - Perunovic, Vrsac 2008 ]

[ 10...Bf6?! 11.Re1 Nc6 12.Bb3!? Ne7 1.23/20 ( *⌓12...a5* 0.71/18 ) 13.Ba3 , Riazantsev - Frolyanov, RUS-ch rapid Olginka 2011. ]

**11.Bh6**

[ 11.Re1 would be met by f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 The game Riazantsev - Bauer, Biel 2010, continued 14.Bf4 ( *14.Bxe6 Bd6 15.Re2 Bxe6 16.Rxe6 Qd7* is fine for Black; *14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1* 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5. f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971) 14...g5!? 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Re2 Qf6 17.Rae1 g4 18.Qd3 f4 19.f3 Qf5 20.Qxf5 ( *20.Qxf5!? exf5 21.Bd5=* ) 20...exf5 21.Bd3 -0.07/21 ( *21.Re5⩲* 0.40/21 ) 21...Kg8 0.40/20 ( *21...b6=* -0.07/21 ) 22.c4 -0.30/21 ( *22.Bc4+⩲* 0.40/20 *Kg7 23.Re5* ) 22...c5 23.Bc3 Bd7 and here a draw was agreed. ]

**11...Bf6 12.Rad1N**

[ 12.f4 -0.37/24 12.Rad1 0.19 does not promise much:

A) 12...Ne7 13.Rae1 c5 is also playable, Potkin - Kharlov/ RUS-chT Sochi 2006 ( *13...Ng6 14.Bg5 c5 15.Rf3 b5 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Rh3 Qd5 18.Bxf6 Qxg2+ 19.Qxg2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 21.Kg3 Nxh3 22.Be7* Cheparinov,I (2650)-Franco Alonso,A (2454) 113/(146) San Sebastian 2011 *Ng5 23.Bxf8 cxd4 24.Be7 f6 25.cxd4 Re8 26.Nc6* Cheparinov,I (2640)-Quesada Perez,Y (2515) 99/(115) Morella 2007 );

B) 12...Kh8 13.Bg5! Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bxg5 15.fxg5 Bd7 16.Rad1 -0.43/22 ( *16.Rf3=*

-0.04/21 ) 16...Qe7 and Black went on to win, Eljanov - Grischuk, Odessa rapid 2009. ]

[ 12.Rfe1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 ( *13...Ng6 14.Ba3* Prevents Qd6. *Be7* )]

[ 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 21.Nxd8 Bxf3 22.Nxf7 Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**12...Ne7! 13.Bc1** This thematic manoeuvre looks interesting but it's still a bit slow.

[After 13.Rfe1 Black can play the same c5!? ( *13...Ng6 14.Bc1 c5* is also not bad, Eljanov - Jakovenko, Jermuk 2009) and if 14.Rd3 -0.40/25 ( *14.dxc5 Qc7; 14.Bf4=* 0.00/23 ) then 14...cxd4∓ 15.cxd4 b5! 16.Bb3 -0.69/19 ( *16.Bxb5 Qa5 17.Rb1 Rb8 18.Rdb3 a6 19.Bd3 Rxb3 20.axb3 Ng6; 16.Bxb5* -0.31/23 was preferrable. *Qa5 17.Rb1* ) 16...Bb7 -0.31/24 ( *⌓16...Ng6* -0.69/19 *17.Qe4 Bd7* ) 17.Rh3 -1.22/18 ( *17.h4∓* -0.31/24 ) 17...Nf5 and White has nothing for the pawn, Brynell - Macieja, Copenhagen 2010. ]

**13...c5! 14.Ba3** -0.40/24

[ Steliios Halkias already played this position - in the game Halkias - Marjanovic, Kragujevac 2009, he preferred 14.Rd3 -0.26/21 14.Qh5 0.19 but here Black could have improved with

**A)** after 14...cxd4 0.25/21 14...Nf5 -0.16 15.cxd4 Nf5 16.Ba3 Be7! 17.Bb2 Bd6 18.Rh3 g6 0.66/19 ( *18...h6=* 0.25/21 is superior.) 19.Qe4 Strongly threatening d5. f6 20.Nd3 White maintained the initiative;

**B)** 14...Nf5!? and 15.Ba3? -2.71/20 is simply met by ( *15.Qh5=* -0.22/22 and White stays safe.) 15...Bxe5!-+ 16.dxe5 Qa5! 17.Bc1 b5 and White loses material. ]

[ In the game Greenfeld - Swapnil, Chennai 2011, White continued his K-side play by 14.h4!? and again it merited attention to avoid hurrying with the central pawn exchange by

**A)** 14...cxd4 15.cxd4 b5 0.75/20 ( *15...Nf5±* 0.34/22 ) 16.Bxb5± Rb8 17.Bc4 0.38/20 was better for White ( *17.Bd3!±* 0.77/20 );

**B)** 14...Nd5!? is also worth considering;

**C)** 14...Nf5!? ]

[ Perhaps White may think about other options, such as 14.Rfe1!? but Black's position is solid enough. ]

[White should try 14.Qh5= 0.16/21 ]

**14...Qc7∓**

[ 14...Bxe5!? 15.dxe5 Qa5 deserves attention, though White has compensation for the pawn after 16.Bc1 ]

**15.Rfe1** A new continuation.

[ In the game Carlsen - Kramnik, Nice rapid 2010, White failed to prove his compensation after 15.Qh5 -0.94/19 15.Rfe1 -0.52 Bxe5! 16.dxe5 b6 -0.47/23 ( *16...Bd7∓* -1.11/20 *17.Rd3 Ba4* ) 17.Bd3 -1.09/22 ( *17.Rd3∓* -0.47/23 ) 17...Ng6∓ 18.Bc1 Bb7 ]

**15...b6** White bishop's manoeuvre to a3 did not bring the desired effect - Black is developing his pieces without serious problems. **16.Qh3 Ng6 17.Bd3** -1.00/21

[ 17.Qg3∓ -0.43/22 ]

**17...Bxe5!?** -0.52/22

[Better is 17...Bb7∓ -1.00/21 18.f4

Rfd8 *( 18...Nxf4 19.Qxh7# )*]

**18.Rxe5** -1.09/19

[ 18.dxe5 Bb7 is also better for Black. ]

[ 18.dxe5∓ -0.52/22 Bb7 19.Qg3 ]

**18...f5?!** -0.25/20 Unnecessarily weakening the pawn structure.

[ 18...Rd8! seemed stronger. ]

[ 18...Rd8!∓ -1.09/19 19.Rh5 e5 *( 19...cxd4 20.Rxh7 f5 21.cxd4± )*]

**19.Ree1= Rf6** 0.20/24

[ 19...c4!∓ -0.48/24 20.Bf1 *( 20.Bxf8 cxd3 21.Bb4 Nf4= )* 20...Rf6 ]

**20.Bc1** -0.57/22

[ White's bishop on a3 had a good chance to get back to work after 20.Qg3! Qc6!? *( 20...Qxg3* 0.69/23 20...f4 0.33 *21.hxg3* Bc4 would now be deadly. *cxd4 22.Bc4!; 20...f4 21.Qh3 )* 21.dxc5

**A)** 21...bxc5 1.48/22 21...Bb7 0.43 22.Bf1 1.02/20 *( ⌓22.Bc4* 1.48/22 *)*;

**B)** 21...Bb7 22.f3 bxc5 23.c4 with good compensation for the pawn. ]

[White should play 20.Qg3= 0.20/24 Qc6 21.Bc2 ]

**20...cxd4** -0.07/21

[ 20...c4!∓ -0.57/22 21.Be2 Bb7 ]

**21.cxd4 Nf4**↑ Black has good play.

**22.Qg3 Nd5 23.Qh4?!** -0.89/23

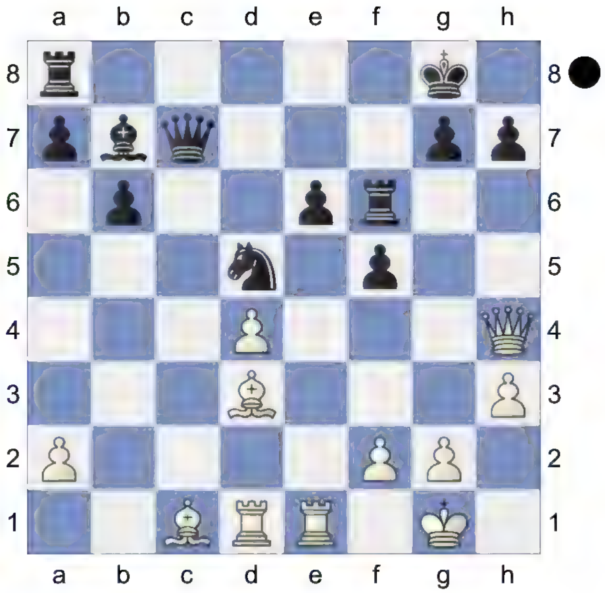
[ 23.Qxc7 Nxc7 24.Bf4 Nd5 25.Be5 might have been more tenacious but White was clearly fighting for a draw. ]

[ 23.Qxc7= 0.00/27 keeps the balance. Nxc7 24.Bd2 ]

**23...Bb7∓** Suddenly White's king feels uncomfortable. **24.h3?!** -2.83/21

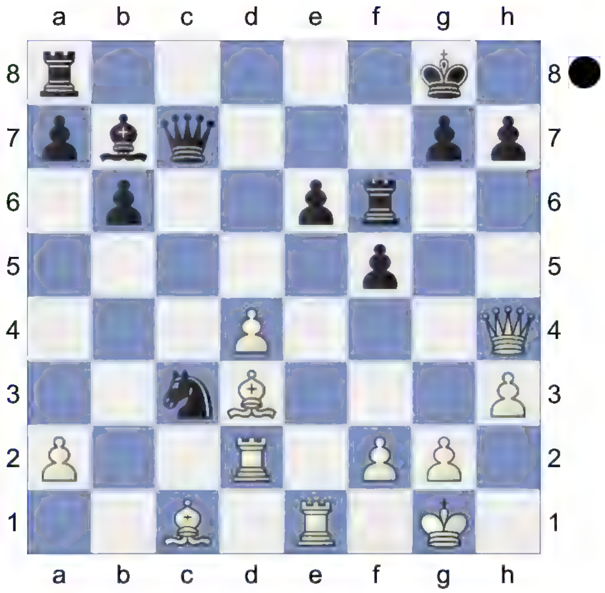
[ 24.Bd2∓ -0.93/21 was worth a try. ]

(Diagram)



This costs White the game. **24...Rg6** -1.65/20

[ 24...Nc3! 25.Rd2



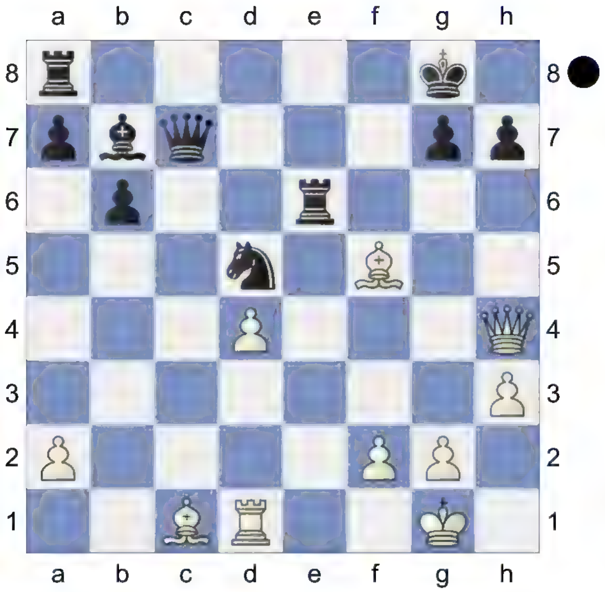
Bxg2! 26.Kxg2 Threatens to win with Rc2. Rh6 was winning more quickly but it is fairly difficult to think about such tactics in the end of a rapid game, especially if you have another good option. ]

[ ⌓24...Nc3! -2.83/21 Hoping for ... Rg6! 25.Bg5 Rg6 ]

**25.Rxe6?!** -3.48/23 White does not want to defend passively but this desperate action just speeds up the inevitable.

[ ⌓25.Bf1 -1.65/20 ]

**25...Rxe6-+ 26.Bxf5**



**Rg6!** After this cool defence the rest is just a formality. **27.Bxg6**

[ 27.f3 Qf7 ]

**27...hxg6 28.Re1 Qc6 29.Qg5 Re8 30.Re5 Nc3 31.Be3 Ne4 32.Qg4 Rxe5 33.dxe5 Qd5 34.Qxg6 Qxe5 35.h4 Nf6 36.Qc2 Qe4 37.Bxb6?** -#1/21

[ 37.Qxe4-+ -3.30/23 Nxe4 *( 37...Bxe4? 38.Bd2-+ )* 38.f3 ]

**37...axb6** -7.11/18 Resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.44/ Black=0.18 (very precise)

[ ⌓37...Qxg2# -#1/21 ]

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Shulman,Yuri** **2648**

■ **Naiditsch,Arkadij** **2697**

TIM Montreal (1) 27.08.2009

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Arkady Naiditsch showed that Black is very much alive after capturing the pawn. This line was supposed to be suspicious for Black but it seems that White has got work to do... Arkady Naiditsch showed that Black is very much alive after capturing the pawn. This line was supposed to be suspicious for Black but it seems that White has got work to do...

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Nbd7** Nowadays this line is a rare guest in tournament practice. Black gets an extra pawn but White's initiative looks rather dangerous... Nowadays this line is a rare guest in tournament practice. Black gets an extra pawn but White's initiative looks rather dangerous...

[ 10...Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 is the main line and covered in earlier issues. ]

**11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 a6 14.Rh3** White has compensation.

**14...Qb4**

[ 14...Qa5 ]

**15.Be2 Ne5!** This rare knight's jump was considered suspicious for Black but Arkady has already played it, although without much success. This rare knight's jump was considered suspicious for Black but Arkady has already played it, although without much success.

[ One of the critical positions arises after the common 15...0-0 0.78/22 15...Ne5 0.35 16.Rb1 Qd6 17.Rg3+ Kh8 18.Qd2 Rg8 1.25/21 ( *⌓18...f5* 0.72/19 ) 19.Rbb3± Rxg3 20.Rxg3 with excellent compensation for the pawn - see the game Werle - Wells/ London 2008, for details. with excellent compensation for the pawn - see the game Werle - Wells/London 2008, for details. b6 1.99/24 ( *20...b5±* 0.91/21 was called for.) 21.Bh5? 0.00/24 ( White has to play *21.Bf3!+-* 1.99/24 *Ra7 22.Bh5* ) 21...Bb7!= 22.Bxf7 Rf8 23.e5 ( *23.Bxe6!? Nc5□ 24.Bf5 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.Kg1=* ) 23...Nxe5? 1.63/21 ( *23...Qxe5=* 0.00/25 *24.Bg6 Be4 25.Bxe4 Qxe4* ) 24.Bxe6+- Intending Qh6 and mate. f5? 4.37/19 ( *24...Nf7* 2.04/21 is a better defense. *25.Rg7 Qc7* ) 25.Rg7!+- Qh6! would kill now. Be4 #7/18 ( *25...Bxg2++-* 4.32/18 *26.Rxg2 Ng4* ) 26.Qh6 f4 27.Qf6 1-0 Werle-Wells, London 2008. ]

**16.h5** This pawn advance takes the g6-square under control but the idea to push Black's knight back does not work well. This pawn advance takes the g6-square under control but the idea to push Black's knight back does not work well. White is slightly better.

[ It looked more useful to get the remaining forces into action: It looked more useful to get the remaining forces into action: 16.Rb1!? Qd6!

**A)** in case of in case of 17.Rc3 Black would have thought about

**A1)** after 17...Ke7? 1.61/20 17...0-0 0.33 18.f4 0.65/20 ( *18.Qd2!+-* 1.61/20 ) 18...Nd7? 2.37/18 ( *18...Ng6±* 0.65/20 ) 19.Qd2+- Rd8 20.Rd1 he faced problems in the game I. Farago - K. Szabo, Balatonlelle 2006 he faced problems in the game I.Farago - K. Szabo, Balatonlelle 2006;

**A2)** 17...0-0 18.h5!;

**A3)** 17...b5! with unclear play. For example, 18.Qd2 ( *18.Nb3!? Qxd1+! 19.Rxd1=∞* ) 18...Bd7 19.Qe3∞ and so on;

**B)** 17.h5?! 0.01/20 17.Rc3 0.38 b5 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.f4? -2.23/24 ( *19.Rd1!∓* -0.34/20 ) 19...Rd8! was bad for White in the game Harika - Kosteniuk, Beijing 2008 - as we'll see, Arkady has certainly seen this game. was bad for White in the game Harika - Kosteniuk, Beijing 2008 - as we'll see, Arkady has certainly seen this game. 20.Rd1 Nc4∓ Harika-Kosteniuk, Beijing 2008.;

**C)** White would also think about such options as White would also think about such options as 17.a4!? with compensation for the pawn, but it requires more analysis. with compensation for the pawn, but it requires more analysis.;

**D)** 17.Rb2!? b5 18.Rd2

**D1)** in case of 18...Qb6 0.49/22 18...Qc7 0.02 19.Rg3! Bb7 20.f4! White's chances looks preferable: Ng6! 21.f5 Rd8! 0.93/19 ( *21...Nxh4?* 2.83/20 21...e5 0.31 *22.Rh3; 21...e5⩲* 0.52/22 ) 22.fxg6± hxg6 23.h5! but Black still keeps reasonable counter chances but Black still keeps reasonable counter chances;

**D2)** 18...Qc7!

**D2a)** here 19.Rg3 Bb7 20.f4? -2.44/22 ( *20.Rg7=* -0.27/19 and White stays safe. *Qc8 21.Qb3 Bxe4 22.Qb4* ) 20...Ng6 was simply bad for White was simply bad for White;

**D2b)** 19.a4 b4∞ with complicated play, in which White keeps sufficient compensation for pawn. with complicated play, in which White keeps sufficient compensation for pawn. ]

[ 16.Rc1!? 0.02/23 16.Rb1 0.43 deserved attention as well:

**A)** 16...0-0?! 0.87/22 16...Bd7 0.04 seems weaker: 17.Rb3 Qe7 0.79/20 ( *17...Qd6⩲* 0.33/22 ) 18.Qd2!± Kh8 19.h5 with the initiative, Gavrilov - Kosyrev, Vladimir 2004 with the initiative, Gavrilov - Kosyrev, Vladimir 2004;

**B)** 16...Qd6 17.Rc2!? -0.30/19 with active play for the pawn. ( *17.Rhc3 Bd7 18.g3 Rd8* was good for Black in the game Freitag - Hoelzl, Gmunden 2005 was good for Black in the game Freitag - Hoelzl, Gmunden 2005; *⌓17.Rb3* 0.06/22 )]

**16...Qd6!** This is a good 'Van Delft/Ris: '!' Van Delft/Ris: 'Diagram # Despite having suffered a painful loss against Kramnik in the latest Dortmund edition, once more Naiditsch showed faith in his beloved opening. The former World Champion annotated in great detail his thrilling win over Germany's number one, but moreover he expressed his doubts about such a risky line to be your main weapon with Black. However, Naiditsch came up with an important improvement over his own game with Gelfand. As became clear from that game, Black better sticks to his extra pawn instead of 16...Bd7, after which White remains with the more active pieces. Therefore 16...Qd6 makes a natural impression, pinning the knight before completing development.Shulman's play seemed too slow and so Naiditsch could consolidate his position. More critical is 17.Qd2 with the idea to play f4 and Rd3 next, although there is no clear edge in sight. One may start wondering whether 16.h5 (covering g6 for the knight) is really necessary and so we tried to improve play with 16.Rb1 Qd6 17.Rc3 or the prophylactic 17.a4.'' novelty, which has been suggested by Boris Gelfand in his comments to the game against none other than ... Arkady Naiditcsh! This is a good novelty, which has been suggested by Boris Gelfand in his comments to the game against none other than ... Arkady Naiditcsh!

[It actually continued by 16...Bd7 0.49/22 16...Qd6 0.12 Van Delft/Ris: '?' 17.Rb3 Qd6! 18.Rxb7 Rd8 19.Nb3 and Black eventually failed to cope with the problems, Gelfand - Naiditsch, Dresden (ol) 2008. and Black eventually failed to cope with the problems, Gelfand -Naiditsch, Dresden (ol) 2008. Qc6 1.15/23 *( 19...Bc6!±* 0.67/21 is more appropriate. *20.Qxd6 Rxd6 21.Rb8+ Rd8 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 )* 20.Rb4± Qc7 1.65/20 *( 20...Qa8±* 1.01/19 *)* 21.Rc1+- Nc6 22.Kg1 Prevents Qh2+ Qf4 23.Rbc4! 0-0 24.R1c3± Gelfand-Naiditsch, Dresden 2008. ]

[ As a rule, early castling would only promote White's initiative in this line: As a rule, early castling would only promote White's initiative in this line: 16...0-0 1.33/24 16...Rg8 0.30 17.Rb1 Qd6 2.19/24 *( 17...Qe7±* 1.47/21 *keeps fighting.)* 18.Qd2→ and so on. ]

**17.Kg1?!** -0.24/20

[ Consistently played but it seems White should have thought about the more concrete Consistently played but it seems White should have thought about the more concrete 17.Qd2!?

- **A)** 17...Rg8?! 0.72/24 17...Bd7 0.04 18.Rd1 Bd7 19.Qb2↑;
- **B)** 17...Nc6?! Van Delft/Ris: '=' 18.Rd3 Qh2! 19.f4 *( 19.Rh3=; 19.Nf3!? Qh1+! 20.Ng1 Rg8 21.Rg3 Rxg3 22.fxg3 needs further prove.)* 19...Rg8! *( 19...Qh1+?!* 1.96/5 19...Rg8 0.00 *20.Kf2 Qh4+ 21.Kg1 )* 20.Bf3 Bd7! 21.Nb3 Ne5! *( 21...Rd8 22.Kf2 Δ Ra1-d1 )* 22.fxe5 Bb5 23.Rd1 *( 23.a4!? Bxd3+ 24.Qxd3 Qxe5 25.Rc1= )* 23...Rd8 24.Nc5 Qxe5±;
- **C)** 17...Bd7 18.Qb2 , avoiding unnecessary problems along the d-file, which he faced later in the game. Then a possible line could be , avoiding unnecessary problems along the d-file, which he faced later in the game. Then a possible line could be *( 18.f4 Nc6 19.Rd3 Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Qc7; 18.Rd1* -1.06/19 18.Qb2 0.11 *Ba4 )*
  - **C1)** 18...Rd8 19.Rd1
    - **C1a)** 19...Qc7?! 0.80/20 19...Ba4 0.11 20.Rc3↑;
    - **C1b)** 19...Qb8?! 20.Rb3! b5 21.a4↑ 0.61/19 *( 21.f4±* 1.36/20 *)*;
    - **C1c)** 19...Ba4
      - **C1c1)** 20.Nf5 Qxd1+ 21.Bxd1 Rxd1+ 22.Ke2 exf5 23.Ra3 Nc4 24.Qxf6
        - **C1c11)** 24...Nxa3? 4.17/19 24...Rd2+ 0.00 25.Qxh8+ Kd7 *( 25...Ke7 26.Qe5+ )* 26.Qxh7+-;
        - **C1c12)** 24...Rd2+ 25.Ke1 *( 25.Kf1!? Rd1+□ 26.Ke2 Rd2+ 27.Kf1 Rd1+ 28.Ke2= )* 25...Rd1+=;
      - **C1c2)** 20.Rd2 Rg8 *( 20...0-0 )* 21.Qxb7 *( 21.Rc3!? )* 21...Rb8 22.Nb3! Rxb7 23.Rxd6 Bb5 24.Bxb5+ axb5 25.Ra6 Ke7∞ /=;
  - **C2)** 18...Ke7? 1.84/20 18...Rd8 0.11 19.Rd1!;
  - **C3)** 18...Nc6!? 19.Rd1!? *( 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.Rd1 Qc7∞ Δ ...Bc6xe4, Ra8-*

d8 ) 19...Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Qe5 with a good play for Black. For example, 21.Qd2

**C3a)** or 21...0-0-0!? 22.Rhd3 Qc7 23.Qb2 Bc6 24.Rxd8+ Rxd8 25.Qxf6 Rxd3 26.Bxd3 Bxe4!

**C3a1)** 27.Qh8+?! Kd7 28.Qd4+ Bd5 29.Bxh7 -0.94/25 ( *29.Qf6= -0.21/22 Ke8 30.h6* ) 29...Qc1+!∓ 30.Ke2 Qh6;

**C3a2)** 27.Bxe4 Qc4+ 28.Kg1 Qxe4 29.Qxf7 b5± with a drawish ending;

**C3b)** 21...Bc6 22.Rhd3 ( *22.a4!?=∞ -0.52/22* 22.Rhd3 0.00 ) 22...0-0∞

**C3b1)** 23.h6 Kh8 24.f4 -0.36/24 ( *24.Kg1= 0.00/22* deserves consideration.) 24...Qc7!∞;

**C3b2)** 23.Qh6 f5! 24.Rg3+ ( *24.exf5 exf5∞* ) 24...Kh8 25.f4! ( *25.Rd1? -2.17/23* 25.f4 0.00 *fxe4* ) 25...Qxd4 26.e5! Qa1+! 27.Kf2 Qd4+ 28.Kf1= with perpetual check. Of course, this is just an optional line, which requires more analysis, but in many cases, especially after the exchange of knights, the move h4-h5 looks rather useless. with perpetual check. Of course, this is just an optional line, which requires more analysis, but in many cases, especially after the exchange of knights, the move h4-h5 looks rather useless. ( *28.Ke1!? Qb4+□ 29.Kf2 Qb6+ 30.Ke1 Qb4+ 31.Kf1 Qb1+ 32.Kf2 Qb6+ 33.Ke1 Qb4+=* )]

[ 17.f4 -0.51/22 17.Rb3 0.38 Nd7 18.Qd2 e5! ]

[ ⌓17.Rb3 0.24/23 ]

**17...Bd7 18.Rb1**

[ 18.f4 -1.04/20 18.Rb1 -0.10 Nc6 ]

**18...Rd8** Black has consolidated his position and his pressure on the d-file might become uncomfortable. At the same time White still failed to create any concrete problems for his opponent. Black has consolidated his position and his pressure on the d-file might become uncomfortable. At the same time White still failed to create any concrete problems for his opponent. **19.Rc3!**

[ The pawn on b7 was untouchable: The pawn on b7 was untouchable: 19.Rxb7?? -2.49/22 19.Rc3 -0.01 Van Delft/Ris: '?' Bc6! ]

**19...b5 20.Rbc1 b4 21.Rg3** Underestimating his opponent's resources.

[ 21.Rc5! should have been played. Then after should have been played. Then after 0-0 White had the very unexpected 22.Bxa6! -0.70/27 though Black's chances were already preferable after the cool though Black's chances were already preferable after the cool ( *22.f4 -1.16/26* 22.h6 0.02 *Ba4!; 22.h6= -0.03/26* )

**A)** not 22...Qxa6? 0.30/21 22...Be8 -0.75 23.Rxe5! fxe5?? #10/20 ( *23...Qd6= 0.18/24 24.Rec5 Qf4* ) 24.Qg4+! Kh8 25.h6! Rg8 26.Qh4+-;

**B)** 22...Be8!∓ -0.70/27 23.f4 Nd7;

**C)** 22...Bc8! -0.15/29 23.Rxc8= ( *23.Bxc8 Qxd4* ) 23...Qxa6

24.R8c2 -0.63/26 *( 24.Rxd8= -0.16/28 Rxd8 25.f4 )* 24...Qb7∓ ]

[ 21.Rc7 0-0 ]

**21...Ke7** By the way, Black still keeps his extra pawn! By the way, Black still keeps his extra pawn! **22.f4 Be8!** The point!'Van Delft/Ris: '!'' **23.fxe5 fxe5** 'Van Delft/Ris: '∓''

[ 23...Qxd4+ 24.Qxd4 Rxd4 25.exf6+ Kxf6 26.Bxa6 ]

**24.Qe1!?** White decided to keep queens on the board but he can hardly bother Black's king. White decided to keep queens on the board but he can hardly bother Black's king. **24...exd4**

[ 24...Qxd4+ 25.Kh2± ]

**25.Bd3 e5 26.h6** -1.32/23 **Bb5?** 0.00/22 In this position with only major pieces White has good counter chances thanks to the vulnerable position of the opponent's king. In this position with only major pieces White has good counter chances thanks to the vulnerable position of the opponent's king.

[ Black should have secured a big advantage by Black should have secured a big advantage by 26...Bd7! For example, 27.Bc4 Rhf8! 28.Bd5 Rc8∓ ]

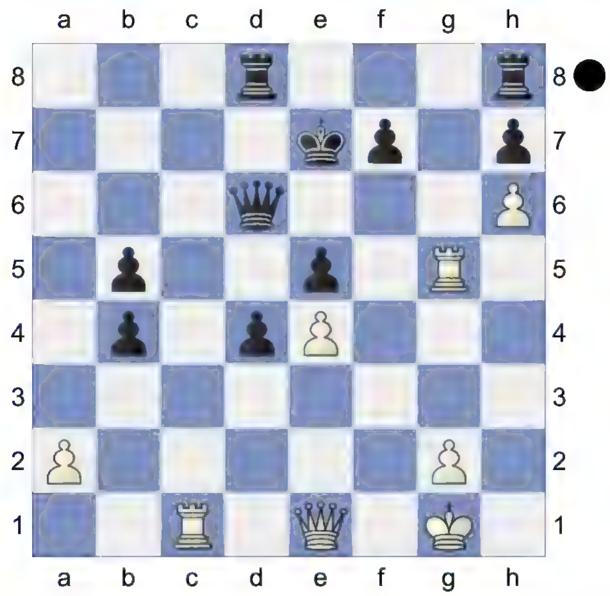
[ 26...Qxh6 27.Qxb4+ Qd6 28.Rc5± ]

[Black should try 26...Bd7!∓ -1.32/23 And now ...Rhg8! would win. 27.Rf3 f6 *( 27...Qxh6 28.Qxb4+ Ke8 29.Rcf1± )*]

**27.Bxb5!= axb5 28.Rg5** -0.94/22

[ 28.Rg7!? was good enough to solve all the problems: was good enough to solve all the problems:. Hoping for Qh4+. Rc8 29.Qh4+ Qf6 30.Qxf6+ Kxf6 31.Rf1+ Ke6 32.Rgxf7 Rc1 33.R7f6+ Ke7 34.Rf7+ Ke6= with a repetition of moves. ]

[ 28.Rg7= 0.00/22 remains equal. Rc8 *( 28...Qxh6 29.Qxb4+ Rd6 30.Rc7+ Kd8 31.Rgxf7= )* 29.Qh4+ Qf6 30.Qxf6+ Remove Defender Kxf6 31.Rf1+ Ke6 32.Rgxf7 *( 32.Rfxf7 Rc1+ 33.Kh2 Rd8= )*]



Perhaps White got ambitious?! **28...Rc8!∓**

[ 28...Qxh6? 29.Qxb4+ *( 29.Rxe5+ Kf8= )* 29...Qd6 30.Rxe5+ Kf6 31.Rf5+ *( 31.Qxb5 Qxe5 32.Rf1+ Ke6=; 31.Rxb5 Qxb4 32.Rf1+ Ke6=; 31.Qxd6+ Rxd6 32.Rxb5 Re8= )* 31...Kg7 32.Rg5+ Kf8 *( 32...Kh6 33.Qd2 )* 33.Qxd6+ *( 33.Qxb5 Rg8±; 33.Rxb5 Qxb4 34.Rxb4 Rg8= )* 33...Rxd6 34.Rc8+ *( 34.Rxb5 Kg7= )* 34...Ke7 35.Rxh8+- ]

**29.Rxc8 Rxc8** Endgame. KQR-KQR **30.Qh4 Rc1+ 31.Kh2** White's initiative looks threatening but in fact Black can easily defend. White's initiative looks threatening but in fact Black can easily defend. **31...Kf8** -0.06/19

[ 31...Kd7!? was worth considering but White had counter chances after was worth considering but White had counter chances after 32.Rf5! ( *32.Rg7?* -5.31/22 32.Rf5 -0.61 *Rf1* ...d3 would now be deadly. *33.Rxh7 d3 34.Rh8 Kc7 35.h7 d2 36.Qd8+ Qxd8 37.Rxd8 Kxd8 38.h8Q+ Kd7-+* ) 32...Qe6 33.Rf6 Qe7! Strongly threatening ...Rc6. 34.Qg4+ Kc7 35.Qg5!⇄ and so on. ]

[Black should play 31...Kd7∓ -0.79/29 32.Rf5 Kc8 ]

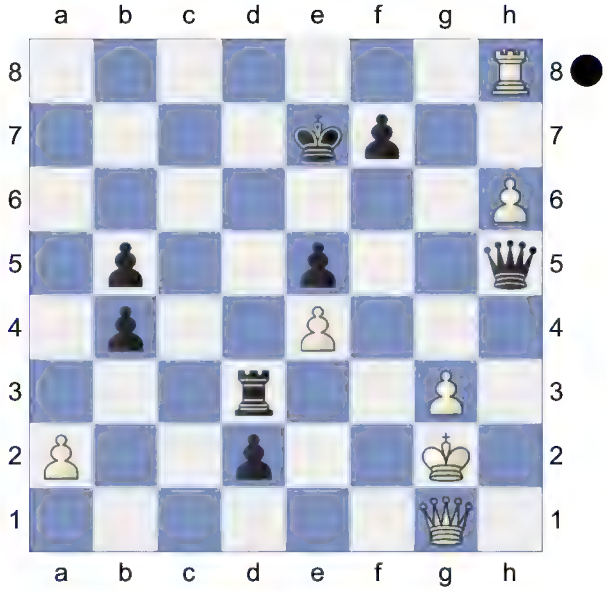
**32.Rg7= Rc6 33.Rxh7 Qf6↑** Inhibits Rh8+. White is under pressure. **34.Qg4** -8.23/20 White has not realised that this move does not create any threats. Moreover, his rook just gets locked in the corner! White has not realised that this move does not create any threats. Moreover, his rook just gets locked in the corner! This move loses the game for White.

[The tricky 34.Rh8+?! -5.04/24 34.Qxf6 -0.10 was well met by Ke7! ( *34...Qxh8?? #1/18 34...Ke7 -5.18 35.Qd8#* ) 35.Qxf6+ Kxf6 36.Rg8 Threatening mate with h7. Ke7! 37.h7 Rh6+ 38.Kg3 Rxh7 ]

[but 34.Qxf6! Rxf6 35.Rh8+! Ke7 36.Kg3∓ should have been sufficient to get half a point as Black's d-passer was already under control: should have been sufficient to get half a point as Black's d-passer was already under control: d3?! ( *36...Rd6* aiming for ... d3. *37.Kf2* Threatens to win with g4. *d3* White must now prevent ...d2. *38.Ke1* ) 37.h7 Rh6 38.Kf3= ]

[ 34.Qxf6= -0.04/24 Rxf6 35.Rh8+ Ke7 36.Kg3 ]

**34...d3-+** Now White has absolutely nothing to do! ...d2 is the strong threat. **35.Kh3 d2 36.Qe2 Rd6 37.Qd1 Rd3+ 38.g3 Qg6** Black had many winning options and he picked up one of the simplest. Black had many winning options and he picked up one of the simplest. **39.Rh8+ Ke7** Black mates. **40.Qg1 Qh5+ 41.Kg2**



**Rxg3+** -9.52/18 Resigns.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.81/Black=0.10 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Harsha,Bharathakoti** **2599**
■ **Girel,Joseph** **2387**
Rochefort op 21st (6) 14.02.2023
*[Nigel Davies,Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5! Nd5** Threatens to win with ...a6. **7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Be3 Nc6 10.a3 Bb7**

[ There's a case for claiming that 10...Na5 is more flexible, as after 11.Qc2 Black can put his c8 bishop on either b7 or a6. ]

**11.Qc2 Na5 12.Rd1** This has become

an established way of fighting against Black's system, with many young stars now using it. **12...Qd7 13.Nc3 f5N**

[ In a game from a couple of years back, David Anton Guijarro played 13...Rb8 here, which gives up any idea of castling long. His opponent, Haik Martirosyan, came up with a very logical reply, he immediately took space on the kingside with 14.h4! after which Martirosyan,H (2624)-Anton Guijarro,D (2669) EU-chT 23rd Terme Catez 2021 continued Bc6 *( 14...h6 15.Rh3 Bc6 16.Nd2 Ba4 17.Nxa4 Qxa4 18.Rc1 Qxc2 19.Rxc2 Kd7 20.h5 Rhc8 21.Rg3 Bf8 22.f4 Na4 23.Nxc4 Nxc4 24.Rxc4 Nxb2 25.Rc2 c6 26.Bc1 Na4 27.f5 Nb6 28.fxe6+ fxe6 29.Ba6* 1-0 (53) Move 10 Sidelines (2544)-6. ♕d2 ♗a6 7.b3 52278 (2541) Deutschland 155/73 2023*)* 15.h5 *( 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qxa4+ Nxa4 18.Bd2 Nb3 19.Rb1 0-0 20.Bxc4 Rfd8 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.hxg5 Nxd4 23.Nxd4 Rxd4 24.Bb3 g6 25.Bxa4 Rxa4 26.b4 c5 27.Rhb3 Rb5 28.f4 cxb4 29.axb4 Ra2* 0-1 (59) 9.b4 a5 10.ba5 (2516)-Efim Kogan (2587) IECG CA.2004.0.00127 email (9) *)* 15...Ba4 1.03/21 *( 15...0-0!± 0.48/22 )* 16.Nxa4± Qxa4 and now 17.Qe4! would have left Black in an unenviable situation. ]

**14.exf6 gxf6 15.0-0 0-0-0 16.Nd2! f5**

[ Martirosyan,H (2621)-Ivic,V (2606) Wch Blitz Warsaw 2021 (2) varied with 16...Rhg8 after which 17.Bf3 would have transposed had Black played 17...f5. Instead there followed Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Qc6! ( -> ...Rxg2+!) 19.Qe2 0.37/22 *( 19.Kh1± 0.78/22 )* 19...Nd5 1.04/20 ( Black should play *19...Nb3± 0.37/22 )* 20.g3± Bd6 21.Bd2 0.60/19 , with White beginning to mount strong pressure and Black's many weaknesses. ( Better is *21.Ne4!± 1.40/20 )*]

**17.Bf3 Rhg8 18.g3**

[ Martirosyan,H (2666)-Pichot,A (2641), Tashkent President op 2nd 2022 featured 18.Bxb7+ Kxb7 19.g3 Qc6 , which Harsha's move makes impossible unless Black first captures on f3. This in turn may be seen as sub-optimal as it brings White's d2 knight to the f3 square. ]

**18...Bd6!** And now ...f4 would win.

**19.Bxb7+**

[A further finesse may be 19.Ne2 . Putrenko, K (2385)-Mehmed,E (2196) Belgrade Serbia op 2023 continued Bxf3 20.Nxf3 Qa4 21.Qxa4 , with an unhappy final result for White. Yet here he should play Nxa4 , but here he should play 22.Rd2 (rather than 22.Rb1), after which White intends 23.Rc2 and 24.Bd2, making it very hard for Black to defend the c4 pawn. ]

**19...Kxb7 20.Nf3 Qc6** 1.15/20

[ 20...Nb3! was better, but White's position is still preferable after 21.Rfe1 . ]

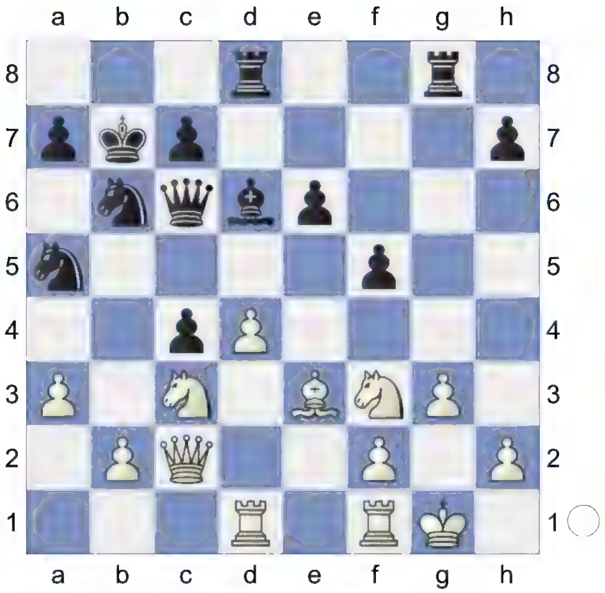
[ 20...Nb3± 0.33/21 ]

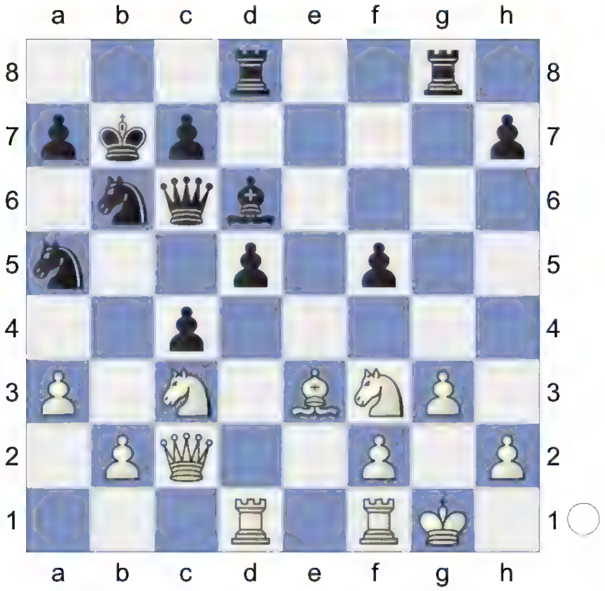
(Diagram)

Black is now going downhill. **21.d5!± exd5** 1.58/21

[ 21...Nxd5 may be a better move, but it's still unpleasant for Black after 22.Nxd5 exd5 23.Qxf5 . ]

[Black should try 21...Nxd5 1.14/25 22.Nxd5 exd5 ]





**22.Nd4!**

[ 22.Qxf5 Rgf8 23.Qg5 Nb3 ]

**22...Qe8** White must now prevent ...f4.

**23.Nxf5**

[ 23.Qxf5?! Qg6± ]

**23...c6** 1.95/21

[ 23...Qg6± 1.24/19 ]

**24.Ne4! Be7** 2.25/23

[ ⌓24...Bf8 1.69/20 ]

**25.Bc5 Bxc5 26.Nxc5+ Ka8 27.Rfe1 Qh5 28.Ne7 Rg4** 4.51/20 After this Black is completely lost.

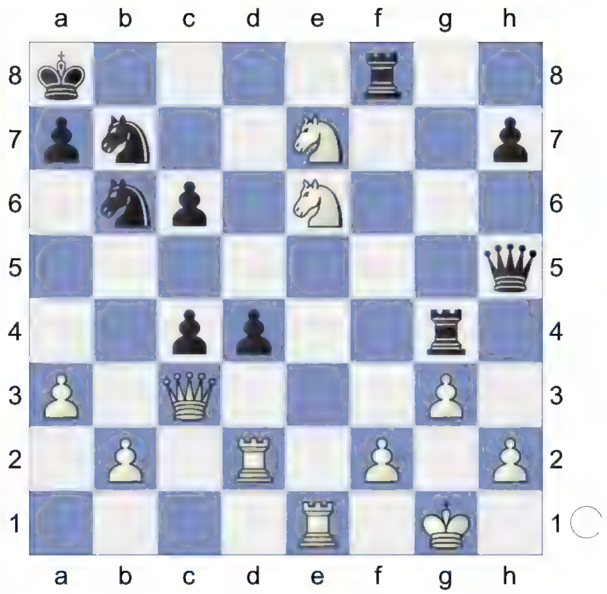
[ 28...Rge8 should have been played, though White could answer this with 29.Ne6 Rd7 30.Ng7 , forcing Black to part with his queen. ]

[ 28...Rge8 2.27/22 29.Ne6 d4 30.Rxd4 *( 30.Nxd4 Rd6+- )* 30...Rxd4 31.Nxd4 Nd5 ]

**29.Qc3+- Rf8 30.Rd2** Active counter play!

[ 30.Qxa5? Rxf2-+ ]

**30...Nb7 31.Ne6 d4**



**32.Nxc6! Rc8** Repels Nc7+ **33.Ncxd4 Rgg8 34.Nf4 Qh6 35.Nde6** White is clearly winning. **35...Na4 36.Qe5 Nbc5 37.Rd6 Qh4** Fighting on bravely, despite his position being in ruins. **38.Qd5+ Kb8 39.Nxc5 Nxc5 40.Rc6** Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.32

**1-0**

**D44**
☐ **Kramnik,Vladimir** **2766**
■ **Carlsen,Magnus** **2690**
Amber-rapid 16th (9) 27.03.2007
*[R.Scherbakov,Kitty Kat]*

This game is not new but somehow I managed to miss Kramnik's brilliant novelty, which gives Black serious problems in the whole line! R. Scherbakov: 'This game is not new but somehow I managed to miss Kramnik's brilliant novelty, which gives Black serious problems in the whole line!'
D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System
R. Scherbakov: 'R.Scherbakov: 'This game is not new but somehow I managed to miss Kramnik's brilliant novelty, which gives Black serious problems in the whole line!'' **1.Nf3** R. Scherbakov R. Scherbakov: 'R. Scherbakov' **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4N**

[ 4.e3

**A)** 4...Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 b6 *( 6...c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Bc4 Qd8 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.h4 h6 12.g4 Bf6 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.hxg5 Qxg5 15.0-0-0 Nb4 16.f4 Qg6 17.Qxg6 fxg6 18.d4 b5 19.Bxb5 Bb7 20.Rhg1 Nxa2+ 21.Kb1 ½-½ (28) 7.Bb3 b5 8.a4 (2561)-Getz,A (2329) Paris mt 1913 (1.2))* 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 Bb7 9.Rc1 Nbd7 10.g3 Re8 11.Bg2 Bd6 12.0-0 a6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Ne2 c6 15.Nf4 Rac8 16.Rfd1 a5 17.a4 Ba6 Lenderman,A (2600)-Yilmaz,M (2619) 136/(174) Reykjavik 2018;

**B)** 4...c6 5.Qc2 Nbd7 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 Qe7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.d4 Nxc3 12.Qxc3 e4 13.Ne5 f5 14.Nxd7 Bxd7 15.g3 Be6 16.Bc4 Rfd8 17.Bxe6+ Qxe6 18.d5 Qe7 19.dxc6 1-0 (29) Burnett,A (2174)-Giulian Jackson,R (1935) BCF-ch Seniors 50 2024 (1);

**C)** 4...c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 exd5 7.b4 cxb4 8.Bb2 Nc6 9.Rc1 Be6 10.Nd4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 f6 12.Bd3 Bd6 13.Qh5+ Bf7 14.Qg4 0-0 15.Qf5 g6 16.Qxf6 Qxf6 17.Bxf6 d4 18.Bxd4 Bxa2 19.Ra1 (27) Parligras,M (2657)-Gaehwiler,G (2414) 140/(18) Skopje 2019;

**D)** 4...Bd6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Re8 7.Rc1 a6 8.d4 b6 9.g3 Bb7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Bg2 Bb4+ 13.Bc3 Ba3 14.Ra1 a5 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Qc2 Nf6 Olivier,P (2215)-Anton Guijarro,D (2651) 150/(3) Struga 2021 ]

**4...dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 b5 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3!**

[ 11.axb5?! cxb5 12.Be2 Nc6∓ ]

**11...Bb7 12.Bg2! c5** Strongly threatening ...cxd4. **13.0-0**

[ 13.axb5 cxd4 14.Ra4 a5= ]

**13...g4** White is clearly better. **14.axb5!** A rather unexpected, very interesting and perhaps the strongest decision, which poses certain problems for Black in the whole line! R. Scherbakov: 'A rather unexpected, very interesting and perhaps the strongest decision, which poses certain problems for Black in the whole line!'

[We concentrated only on 14.Nh4 0.45/17 14.axb5 1.50 Bxg2 15.Nxg2 , which might promise somewhat the better chances for White but in some cases he should be brave enough to give up a piece for some positional advantages. R. Scherbakov: ', which might promise somewhat the better chances for White but in some cases he should be brave enough to give up a piece for some positional advantages.' ]

**14...gxf3** 2.29/18 Black cannot hold the game after this.

[ 14...Rxg7± 0.84/19 is a better defense. 15.Ne1 *( 15.Ne5 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 cxd4± )* 15...Bxg2 16.Nxg2 cxd4 ]

**15.Bxf3+- Bxf3**

[ 15...Qc7?! 3.04/20 15...Bxf3 2.04 is strongly met by

A) 16.d5!+- 3.04/20 is more deadly. Bxc3 *( 16...Nd7 17.dxe6 )* 17.bxc3 Rxg7 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.Re1;

B) 16.b6! 1.02/20 16...Qxb6± 17.dxc5! Bxc5 18.Na4! Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Qc6 20.Qxc6+ Nxc6 21.Nxc5± with a clear advantage in the ending. ]

**16.Qxf3 Nd7** 3.11/22

[ ⌓16...Bxc3 1.86/22 17.bxc3 *( 17.Qxa8 Bxd4 18.Rfd1 Rxg7+- )* 17...Nd7 ]

**17.dxc5 Bxc3** 4.00/19

[ Black had no time for R. Scherbakov: 'Black had no time for' 17...Rxg7? 18.Rfd1! Bxc5 19.Rxd7!+- ]

[ 17...Nxc5 seemed playable but it still couldn't solve the problems: 18.Qc6+ 1.27/27 *( 18.b6+- 2.35/22 a5 19.Rfd1 )* 18...Nd7? 3.36/23 *( 18...Ke7± 1.27/27 )*

A) 19.Rfd1!? was also interesting, according to Kramnik:. Threatens to win with Rxd7! Rc8 20.Rxa7 Rxc6 21.bxc6 Nb6 aiming for ...Qc8. *( 21...Rxg7? 4.45/20 21...Nb6 1.89 22.Rdxd7 Qc8 23.Ne4+- )* 22.Rxd8+ Kxd8 23.Rxf7? 1.18/21 *( 23.Rb7!+- 3.10/27 Bxc3 24.bxc3 )* 23...Be7± 24.Nb5± with winning chances;

B) 19.Rfd1!+- 3.36/23 has better winning chances. Hoping for Rxd7! Rc8 20.Rxa7 Rxc6 21.bxc6 Bxc3 22.Rdxd7 Bxg7 23.Rxd8+ Kxd8 24.Ra8+ Skewer Kc7 25.Rxg8 Bxb2 26.Rg4 Kxc6 27.Rxc4+ Kd7 28.h4;

C) 19.Nd5! 1.47/20 19...Rc8± *( 19...exd5?? 25.05/19 19...Rc8 1.56 20.Rfe1+ Be7 21.Rxe7+!+- )* 20.Nf6+! Ke7 21.Nxg8+ Qxg8 22.Qb7 Bd6 23.Rxa7 Rc7 and here Hiarcs 12 quickly finds R. Scherbakov: 'and here Hiarcs 12 quickly finds' 24.Qxc7! *( 24.Qa8± 0.91/21 24.Qxc7 2.16)* 24...Bxc7 25.Rxc7 Kd6 26.Rxc4 Rd1+ would now be deadly. Ne5 27.Rd1+ Ke7 28.Rc7+? 0.22/23 ( Only move: *28.Rb4!+-* 2.16/24 ) 28...Kf6= 29.f4+- and the b-pawn supported by two strong rooks should decide the game. R. Scherbakov: 'and the b-pawn supported by two strong rooks should decide the game.' ]

[ ⌓17...Nxc5 2.61/21 18.b6 Rxg7 ]

**18.bxc3**

[Less strong is 18.Qxc3 Qg5± *( 18...Nxc5 19.Rfd1± )*]

**18...Nxc5 19.Rfd1** Prevents Qd5.

**19...Qc8 20.Rd6! Qb7**

[Other moves did not help: 20...Ke7? 21.Rc6 Qb7 22.Qf4 Nd7 23.Qg5+ Ke8 24.Re1+- ]

[ 20...Nb3? 6.07/19 20...Qb8 4.18 21.b6! ]

[ 20...Qb8

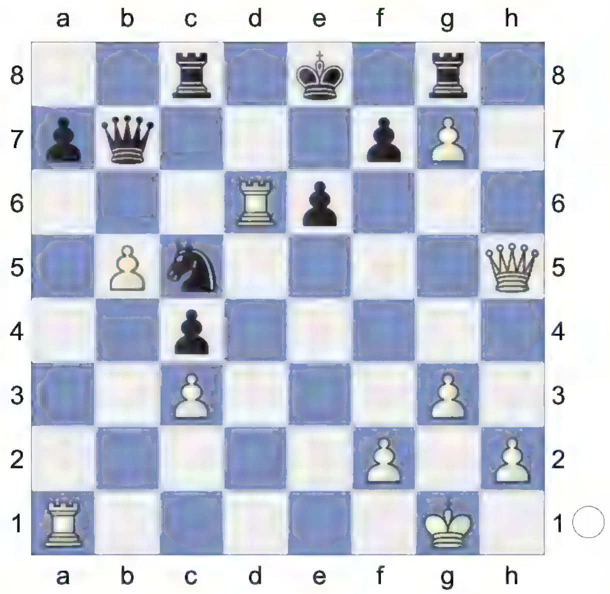
A) ⌓21.Rc6! 3.13/17 Nd3 *( 21...Nb7 22.Qf6 )* 22.b6;

B) 21.Rb6! 4.70/22 21...Qd8+-

22.Rc6 Qd3 23.Qh5 Qxc3 24.Rxa7+- ]

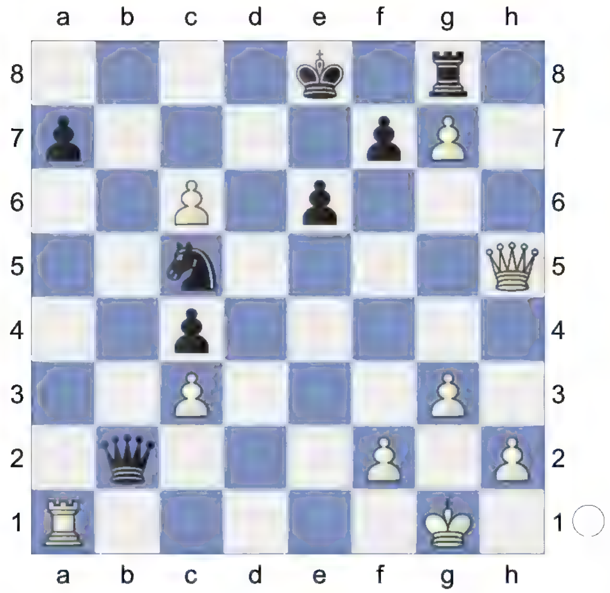
[or 20...Rxg7 21.Qh5! followed by Rd6-c6. Prevents Rg5. ]

**21.Qh5 Rc8**



**22.Rc6!** Everything works fine! Black is already helpless. Deflection **22...Nd3**

[In case of 22...Rxc6 23.bxc6 Qb2 ( *23...Qxc6 24.Qh8!* )



24.Qh8! 23.50/19 ( *24.Rxa7 Qb1+ 25.Kg2 Qe4+ 26.f3* would also win; *⌓24.Rxa7!* 15.52/24 *Qb1+ 25.Kg2* ) 24...Qxa1+ 25.Kg2 White got two queens in all the lines: R. Scherbakov: 'White got two queens in all the lines:' Rxh8 ( *25...Kd8 26.Qxg8+ Kc7 27.Qxf7+* ) 26.gxh8Q+ Ke7 27.c7+- ]

**23.Rxc8+** Deflection

[ 23.Rxe6+ Kd8 24.Qh4++- was mating as well. R. Scherbakov: 'was mating as well.' ]

**23...Qxc8 24.Rxa7** Black resigned. Inspired play by Vladimir Kramnik! Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.90

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Sanikidze,Tornike 2549**
■ **Landa,Konstantin 2644**
chT Haguenau (6.2) 04.06.2013
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Konstantin Landa came up with a rare idea in a sharp variation but, surprisingly, made a wrong choice just three moves later in a position which should certainly have been part of his home preparation ... though probably not for this particular game.
D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7

13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4! e5** 0.34/19 A rare but interesting option.

[ 12...a6= -0.02/22 ]

**13.Bxc4± a6 14.Qb3 Na5** White has an edge. **15.Nxf6+!** This move is technically a novelty but this line has already been known for some years.

[ 15.Bxf7+ Kf8 16.Qd5 Rc8+ 17.Kb1 Bc6 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8-+ ]

**15...Kf8?!** 1.30/24 This is dubious.

[ Without home preparation it was not easy to play 15...Bxf6! , which I already checked some years ago: 16.Bxf7+ Kf8 17.Qa3+! Kg7! 18.Bxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxa5 Bf5 and Black is not lost - see the game Kunin - Khenkin/EU-ch Budva 2009 for details. ]

[ 15...Bxf6± 0.35/24 16.Bxf7+ Kf8 17.Qa3+ Be7 18.Qxe7+ ( *18.Bxe7+ Qxe7 19.Nxe5 Rc8+ 20.Kb1 Qxa3=* ) 18...Qxe7 19.Bxe7+ Kxe7 ( *19...Kxf7 20.Bd6±* ) 20.Nxe5 Rac8+ 21.Kb1 Bf5+ 22.Ka1 Rhd8 ]

**16.Nxd7+± Qxd7 17.Bxe7+**

[ 17.Qd3! seemed to be more promising: Nxc4 (here *17...Rc8?* 4.20/20 17...Nxc4 1.51 failed to *18.Nxe5+-* ) 18.Bxe7+! Kxe7 ( *18...Qxe7?* 3.78/23 18...Kxe7 1.23 *19.Qxc4+-* ) 19.b3! Rac8 20.bxc4 Rxc4+ 21.Kd2! Qa4 22.Qe4± with a tangible advantage, according to Mikhail Golubev. ]

**17...Qxe7 18.Qd3** 0.55/22

[ 18.Qa4! was stronger: Qc5 19.Nxe5! Qxe5 20.Kb1 Nxc4 21.Qxc4 with a certain edge as Black's king is unsafe. ]

[White should play 18.Qa4± 0.93/26 Qc7 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Bd3 ]

**18...Rc8±** Threatens to win with ...e4!

**19.b3! b5** Pin

[ 19...Qa3+!? deserved attention: 20.Kd2! ( *20.Kb1* 0.15/17 *20.Kd2* 0.77 *Nxc4 21.bxc4 Qxd3+! 22.Rxd3 e4 23.Rxd4 exf3 24.g3 Rg8* ) 20...Nxc4+! 21.bxc4 Qa5+ 22.Ke2 0.10/17 ( *22.Kc1!±* 0.67/26 ) 22...e4!= 23.Qxd4 exf3+ 24.gxf3 Re8+! 25.Kf1 Rg8 but here White was safe and better thanks to his extra pawn. ]

**20.Qf5**

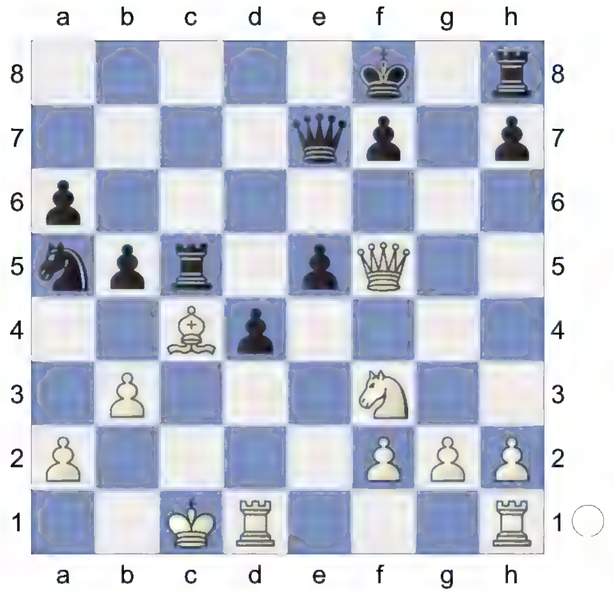
[ 20.Qf5!? Rc5 Pin 21.Rhe1± ]

**20...Rc5**

(Diagram)

Pin **21.Rhe1! Nc6** Black must defend his center by any means! **22.Qc8+** Skewer, Double Attack **22...Nd8?** 3.15/25

[Black had to go for the line 22...Kg7! 23.Qg4+ Kf8 24.Nxd4 where White is somewhat better: Rxc4+!? (alternatively, *24...Nxd4 25.Rxd4*



aiming for Rd7. *∆bxc4 26.b4! )* 25.bxc4 Qa3+! 26.Kb1 (or *26.Kd2 Qb4+ 27.Ke3* White threatens Qc8+ and mate. *Nxd4± )* 26...Nxd4 27.Re2

**A)** rather than 27...Rg8? 2.08/22 27...Nxe2 0.55 28.Qh4!± Nxe2? #3/13 ( *28...Rg6+- 1.79/18 29.Rb2 Kg7 )* 29.Rd8+ Kg7 30.Qg5+;

**B)** 27...Nxe2

**B1)** 28.Rd8+?? -4.46/5 28.Qxe2 0.07 Ke7 29.Rxh8 -#1/11 ( *29.Qg5+-+ -4.49/19 f6 30.Qg7+ Kxd8 31.Qxh8+ Kd7 32.Qg7+ Ke8 33.Qg8+ Qf8 34.Qe6+ Kd8 35.Qb6+ Ke7 36.Qxa6 )* 29...Qc1#;

**B2)** 28.Qxe2 Qb4+ 29.Qb2 ]

[ 22...Kg7!± 0.32/24 23.Qg4+ Kf8 ]

**23.Qxa6!+-**

[ 23.Qb8 1.75/21 23.Qxa6 3.18 was also better for White: Rxc4+ 24.Kb1 Qc7 25.Nxe5!? Qxb8 26.Nd7+ Kg7 27.Nxb8 Rc5 28.Nxa6 Rg5 29.g3± but the text move is much more energetic. ]

**23...bxc4 24.Qh6+ Ke8**

[ 24...Kg8? 4.94/21 24...Ke8 2.98 was worse: 25.Nxd4 Threatening mate with Nf5. cxb3+ 26.Kb2 , intending to shift one of the rooks to the g-file. ]

**25.Nxd4** 0.15/18

[ The capture on d4 is very natural but the computer's 25.b4! was more precise. Yet, it was really not easy to calculate such variations under time pressure: Rd5 ( *25...Qa7!? 26.Kb1! Qa4 27.Qb6! Rb5 28.Qxb5+! Qxb5 29.Rxe5++- )* 26.Rxe5! Rxe5 27.Qg7! Rf8 28.Qxe5 Qxe5 29.Nxe5+- with a decisive advantage (Golubev). ]

[ 25.b4+- 4.16/20 Qa7 26.Rxd4 ( *26.bxc5 Qa3+ 27.Kb1 Qb4+ 28.Kc2 Qc3+ 29.Kb1 Qb4+ 30.Kc2 Qc3+ 31.Kb1 Qb4+= )*]

**25...cxb3+= 26.Kb1 bxa2+ 27.Ka1!** Black's defence is still rather difficult as his king is too vulnerable. **27...e4?** 2.86/17 This pawn advance makes White's task easier.

[ 27...Ne6! was the most stubborn defence and in fact it was not easy for White to convert his initiative into a full point:

**A)** after 28.Nxe6 fxe6 ( *28...Qxe6?* 10.63/21 28...fxe6 0.15 *29.Qg7! Rf8 30.Rd8+! )* 29.Re3 Black could somehow defend: Rf8 30.Rb3 ( *30.Ra3!? Rc8□ 31.Rg3= )* 30...Rc8! 31.Rb7 Qf6 32.Qh5+ ( *32.Rdd7 e4+= )* 32...Rf7 33.Rxf7 Qxf7 34.Qxe5 Qf5 etc.;

**B)** 28.Nf5 Qg5 29.Qxg5 ( *29.Nd6+ Ke7 )* 29...Nxg5 30.f4 ( *30.h4!? Ne6□ 31.Re2= )* 30...Ne6 31.fxe5 Rg8 32.Re4 Ra5! ( *32...Rxg2?* 4.24/24 32...Ra5 0.12 *33.Rb4! Rc8* Repels Rb8 *34.Nd6++- )* 33.g4 Rg6 34.Rb4 Ra8! Repels Rb8+ 35.Rc1 White is dominating but the lack of material on the board still promises decent drawing chances for Black. ]

[ 27...Ne6!= 0.21/20 and Black stays safe. 28.Nxe6 fxe6 ( *28...Qxe6? 29.Qg7+-* )]

**28.f3!+-**

[ 28.Kxa2 Ra5+ 29.Kb3 Qa3+ 30.Kc2 Rc5+ ( *30...Qa2+ 31.Kc3 Rc5+ 32.Kb4 Qc4+ 33.Ka3 Qc3+ 34.Ka2 Ra5+ 35.Kb1 Ra1#* ) 31.Kb1 Qb4+ ]

**28...Re5 29.Qg7?** 0.57/18

[ 29.Qf4! with the idea Nd4-f5 was stronger but White had to see that after Qc5 there is no danger for his king:. ( -> ...Qc3+) 30.Rxe4! Qc3+ 31.Kxa2 Qc4+? 3.91/23 ( *31...Qa5+* 2.28/21 *32.Kb2 Qb4+ 33.Kc1 Rxe4 34.Qxe4+ Qe7* ) 32.Kb2+- Qb4+ 33.Kc2 Qc4+ 3.43/22 ( *⌓33...Qc5+* 2.41/21 *34.Kd3 Rxe4 35.Qxe4+ Kf8* ) 34.Kd2 Qb4+ 35.Ke3 and so on. ]

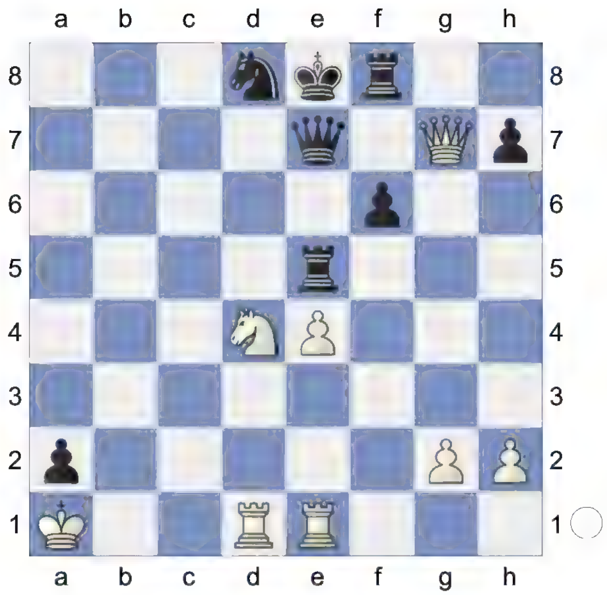
[ 29.Kxa2 Ra5+ 30.Kb3 Qa3+ 31.Kc2 Rc5+ ( *31...Qa2+ 32.Kc3 Rc5+ 33.Kb4 Qa5+ 34.Kb3 Qc3+ 35.Ka2 Ra5+ 36.Kb1 Ra1#* ) 32.Kb1 Qb4+ ]

[White should try 29.Qb6+- 2.55/23 Nf5! would now be deadly. Qc5 30.Qxd8+ Remove Defender, Decoy Kxd8 31.Ne6+ Ke7 32.Nxc5 Rxc5 33.Rxe4+ ( *33.fxe4 Rc2∓* ) 33...Kf6 34.Rf4+ ( *34.Kxa2 Rb8∓* ) 34...Kg7 35.Rg4+ ( *35.Kxa2 Rb8∓* ) 35...Kf6 36.Rf4+ ( *36.Kxa2 Rb8∓* ) 36...Ke7 37.Re1+ ( *37.Kxa2 Rb8∓* ) 37...Kf8 38.Rd1 ]

**29...Rf8± 30.Qh6?!** 0.01/21 White is wasting time.

[ 30.fxe4 And now Nf5! would win. f6

(Diagram)



31.Qg3± 0.35/19 was more to the point. ( *31.Qh6!±* 0.72/19 *Qc7 32.Rc1* )]

[ 30.fxe4± 0.56/24 f6 31.Qxe7+ Rxe7 ( *31...Kxe7 32.Nf5+ Ke8 33.Re2±* ) 32.Nf5 ( *32.Kxa2 Kf7=* )]

**30...f6?!** 0.51/22

[Missing a chance to play 30...Qb4! with good chances to hold on: 31.Qe3 Wards off Qc3+. g4 is the strong threat. f5 32.fxe4 Rf6 and he finally gets all his pieces in action though his king still causes headaches. ]

[ 30...Qb4= 0.01/21 31.Qd2 Qxd2 32.Rxd2 Ne6 ]

**31.fxe4!**

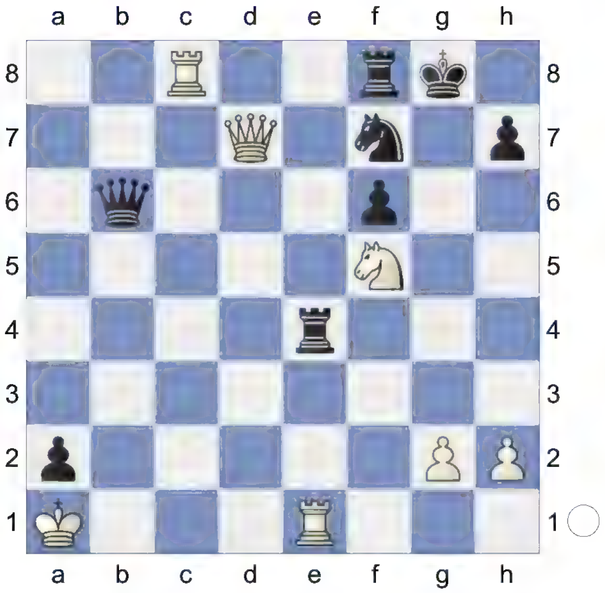
[ 31.Kxa2 Ra5+ ( *31...Qb4 32.Nb3∓* ) 32.Kb3 Qa3+ 33.Kc2 Rc5+ ( *33...Qa2+ 34.Kc3 Ra3+ 35.Kb4 Ra4+ 36.Kc5 Qc4+ 37.Kd6 Nf7#* ) 34.Kb1 Qb4+ ]

**31...Qc5 32.Qd2** 0.00/22 Against Qc3+. White is more active.

[ 32.Re2! was stronger:. Black must now prevent Rc2! Rf7! ( *32...Qc3+?* 2.74/19 32...Rf7 0.46 *33.Rb2!* ) 33.Nf5! Strongly threatening Ng7+. Rd7! 34.Rc1! Dodges Qc3+ Qf8

35.Qh3↑ with an annoying initiative. ]
[ 32.Rd3± 0.64/21 Rh5 33.Qe3 ]

**32...Kf7= 33.Nf5 Kg8 34.Rc1→** Black needs to defend precisely. **34...Qb6 35.Qd7 Nf7** Thanks to White's slow play Black has managed to evacuate his king and consolidate his forces. Hoping for ...Rb5. **36.Rc8** The board is on fire. **36...Rxe4?** 6.43/32



This tactical shot backfires. **37.Rec1!+-** This cool retreat ends Black's resistance. Now he has no defence against the forthcoming Rc1-c8. White wants to mate with Rxf8+.

[Black could defend after 37.Rxf8+? 0.02/5 37.Rec1 6.10 Kxf8 38.Qc8+ ( *38.Rc1!? Re8□ 39.Qc6 Qxc6 40.Rxc6=* ) 38...Nd8 39.Rd1 Re8 ]

**37...Rd8 38.Rxd8+** Resigns.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.31/Black=0.54

[ 38.Kxa2 leads to mate. Re2+ 39.Ka3 Qb2+ ( *39...Rxg2 40.Qe8+* Back Rank *Rxe8 41.Rxe8#* ) 40.Ka4 Qa2+ ( *40...Re4+? 41.Ka5-+* ) 41.Kb4 Rb2+ 42.Kc5 Qa5+ 43.Kd4 Qd2+ Skewer, Double Attack 44.Kc5 Qb4+ ( *44...Qxd7* is a self mate. *45.Rxd8+ Nxd8 46.Nd6 Qc6+* Skewer, Double Attack *47.Kd4 Ne6+ 48.Ke3 Qxc1+ 49.Ke4 Ng5+ 50.Kd4 Rd2+* Skewer *51.Ke3 Rc2+* Discovered Attack (Check) *52.Kd4 Qd2#* ) 45.Kd5 Rd2+ Skewer ( *45...Qb7+ 46.R1c6 Qxd7+ 47.Nd6 Qf5+ 48.Kd4 Qf4+ 49.Kc5 Qe5+* Deflection *50.Kc4 Nxd6+* Remove Defender, Overworked Piece *51.Rxd6 Rxc8+ 52.Rc6 Rxc6+ 53.Kd3 Rc3#; 45...Qb7+ 46.R1c6 Qxd7+ 47.Nd6 Qf5+ 48.Kd4 Qf2+ 49.Kd3 Qd2+* Skewer *50.Ke4 Ng5+ 51.Kf5 Qf2+ 52.Kg4 Qxg2+ 53.Kh5 Qh3#* )]

**1-0**

**D39**
☐ **Avrukh,Boris 2645**
■ **Grischuk,Alexander 2726**
GM Biel SUI (9) 02.08.2007
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Boris Avrukh managed to give Black problems here in a line which was not supposed to be very promising for White. Alexander Grischuk chose a logical defensive set-up but perhaps Black should work out a precise order of moves to prevent the possible escalation of White's initiative. However, soon White unexpectedly changed the course of the game and it helped his opponent to swap queens and achieve a good endgame, in which his centralised king was not in danger anymore. Then White began to face problems with his Q-side pawn and after losing it he had to fight for equality - a task he eventually failed to solve.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** This pair of bishops is nice. **10...Bd7 11.Bxf6! gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** White is slightly better. **13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qh5** Apart from this queen's jump White has tried a number of possibilities.

[ 15.Qd2!? has been considered in some games. The best way for Black seems to be h5!? 16.f4 0.00/23 *( 16.h3± 0.40/21 )* 16...Rc8 17.Rf3 b5 18.Re1 Nb6 19.Qf2 h4! 20.Rh3 Na4⇄ This is a kind of position Black should try to achieve in this line - all his pieces are working well and White cannot think about attacking Black's centralized king, Gelfand - Topalov/ Monte Carlo 2005. ]

[ 15.f4!? 0.00/25 15.Qh5 0.36 deserves attention, among other options:

**A)** In such a position Black's main problem is the vulnerability of his king and he has a logical choice - to keep it in the center or to move it to either flank. Every such action must be well thought out - sometimes it might work, sometimes it is too risky. Here 15...0-0-0!? deserves attention: 16.Qe2 *( 16.Qf3!?* seems more energetic *)* 16...Nc5 17.Rb4 Kb8 18.Rfb1 Rd6 19.Rc4 Rc8 20.Qh5 -0.53/25 *( 20.h3=* -0.07/21 should be considered.*)* 20...Rb6⇄ with reasonable counter chances as White's Q-side may also be rather vulnerable, Gyimesi - Acs, Lillafured 1999;

**B)** 15...0-0-0= 0.00/25 is superior.;

**C)** 15...h5 0.40/25 16.Qf3 -0.10/23 This position arose in the game Chatalbashev - J.Gustafsson/Calvia (ol) 2004, which continued by *( 16.Qe2±* 0.40/25 *)* 16...Rc8!? 0.66/22 *( 16...h4=* -0.10/23 *)* 17.e5! 0.01/22 *( 17.Rfd1!±* 0.66/22 *)* 17...b6 and here 18.f5! seemed more energetic, although Black could still defend by: Qxc3 *( 18...Nxe5? 19.Qg3↑ )* 19.Qf2! fxe5 *( 19...Nxe5 20.fxe6 Ng4 21.Qf4↑ )* 20.fxe6 Qxd4 21.exd7+ Qxd7 22.Rbe1!?↑ Rc6 23.Rxe5+

Kf8! and so on. ]

**15...Ke7** 1.10/21

[ 15...Nc5!⩲ 0.33/20 ]

**16.Rfd1** 0.39/19

[ An interesting knight sacrifice 16.Rfe1 0.56/22 16.f4 1.09 Rac8 17.Nf5+?! 0.00/24 , which occurred in the game Schafranietz - Meessen, Eppingen 2004 can be parried with precise defence: ( *17.Qh4!⩲* 0.58/19 ) 17...exf5= 18.exf5+ Kd8! 19.Qxf7 Qc4! 20.Qe7+ -0.55/5 ( *20.Re6=* 0.00/24 *Qd3 21.Ree1* ) 20...Kc7∓ 21.Rbd1 Intending Qd6+ and mate. Rcd8! 22.Re4! Qc6! Prevents Qd6+ 23.Re6 Qa4 0.00/24 ( *23...Qb5!∓* -0.85/25 *24.Rxf6 Kb8* ) 24.Rd4!= and here Black should have played the brave Qxa2! Hoping for ...Kc8. 25.Red6 -1.37/25 ( *25.g3!=* 0.00/24 remains equal.) 25...Kc8∓ with the idea ...Rh8-e8 since White couldn't take the knight: 26.Rxd7?? -#4/15 ( *26.h4∓* -1.22/23 *Rhe8 27.Qxh7* ) 26...Qa1+ 27.Rd1 Qxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ checkmate! ]

[ 16.Kh1± 1.10/21 ]

**16...b5⩲**

[ Black has successfully tried other continuations, such as 16...Rac8 1.03/18 16...b5 0.19 17.Qh4 0.19/23 ( *17.f4!±* 1.03/18 ) 17...b5∞ Pelletier - Brunner, Biel 1994 ]

[or 16...Rad8 17.Rd3 Ne5 18.Rg3 -0.09/22 ( *18.Re3⩲* 0.43/20 ) 18...Ng6 0.75/19 ( *18...Rhg8=* -0.09/22 *19.Re3 Rg5 20.Qxh7 Qc8* ) 19.Qd1 -0.24/21 ( *19.Qh6±* 0.75/19 ) 19...Rd7= 20.Qb3 Rc8∞ W.Schmidt - Tukmakov, Koszalin 1999 with acceptable play in both cases but perhaps White could have posed more problems for Black in these games. ]

**17.Rb2!** A good manoeuvre - White doubles his rooks along the d-file. **17...Rac8 18.Rbd2!** Nf5+! would now be deadly. **18...Nc5** 1.64/25

[ 18...Rhd8!⩲ 0.49/19 ]

**19.Re2?!** 0.30/19 A slightly strange decision, which is not quite consistent with the previous play.

[ 19.Qh4!? seemed more to the point. Then in case of. Strongly threatening Re1. Qe5 White would think about

**A)** a tempting 20.Nf3!? 0.25/20 20.f4 0.86 Qxe4

**A1)** 21.Qg3!⩲ 0.42/27 might be stronger. Qa8 ( *21...e5 22.Qh3* ) 22.Qd6+ Ke8 23.Qf4;

**A2)** 21.Rd7+ 0.00/24 21...Ke8!= 22.Qxf6 Nxd7 23.Qxh8+ Nf8 was less promising;

**B)** 20.f4! Inhibits Qg5. 20...Qxe4 21.Re2 Qg6 22.f5 Qg5 23.Qh3! e5 24.Nf3! Qg7 25.Qh4↑ with excellent attacking chances. ]

[White should play 19.Qh6!+- 1.64/25 ]

**19...Qf4!= 20.g3?!**

[ Here also White had the more energetic 20.e5!?

**A)** other options were hardly better: 20...fxe5 1.83/25 20...f5 0.45 21.Rxe5 Ne4

**A1)** 22.g3!? 0.67/22 22.Nf5+ 1.77 Qxf2+ -0.15/5 ( Better is *22...Rhg8!⩲* 0.67/22 ) 23.Kh1↑;

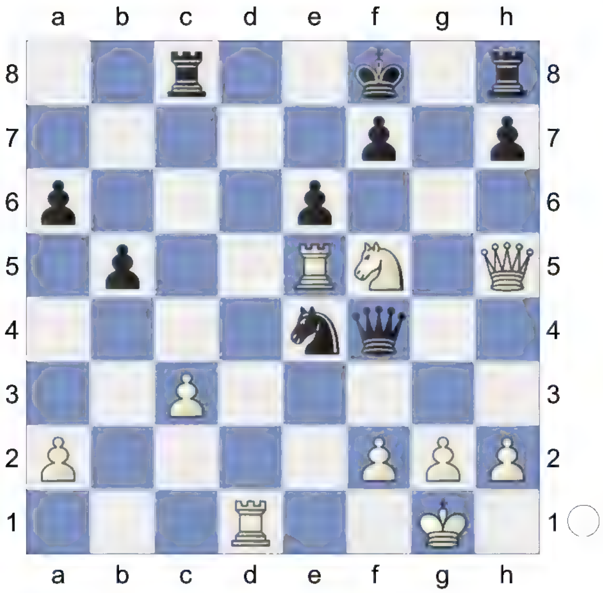
**A2)** 22.Nf5+ Kf8

(Diagram)

23.Rxe4! Qxf5 24.Qh6+↑;

**B)** or 20...Rhd8?! 21.exf6+! Qxf6 22.Qxh7 1.15/22 ( *22.Re3+-* 1.78/23 );

**C)** 20...f5 21.g3 Qg4 22.Qh6⩲ with better chances. ]



[ 20.e5 feels hotter. f5 21.g3 Qg4 22.Qh6 ]

**20...Qg5 21.Qf3 h5 22.e5 f5 23.c4!?** Taking a good opportunity to get rid of the weak pawn, at the same time trying to open the position and create problems for Black's centralised king. **23...bxc4 24.Rc2 Qg4!** Black should hurry up with this exchange, otherwise it would be too late for his king. **25.Rxc4 Qxf3 26.Nxf3 Ne4** Thanks to White's slow play Black has solved all his problems - he is fine in the endgame. **27.Rdc1**

[Or 27.Rb4 Rc7 Against Rb7 ]

**27...Rxc4 28.Rxc4** Endgame. KRN-KRN **28...Rb8 29.Rc2 Rb4 30.Kg2 a5 31.Ne1 Rd4 32.f3 Nd2 33.Kf2 Nc4 34.f4 Nb6!** Suddenly White begins to face problems with his pawn on a2. **35.Nf3**

[ 35.Ng2!? -0.47/24 35.Nf3 0.00 followed by Ng2-e3 was maybe a more reliable way to avoid problems. ]

**35...Ra4 36.Rb2 Nd5 37.Rb7+ Ke8 38.Ng5**

[ White couldn't protect his a2-pawn anyway: 38.Rb8+ -0.55/27 38.Ng5 -0.04 Kd7! 39.Rb7+ -1.28/24 *( 39.Rb2∓ -0.63/25 )* 39...Kc6∓ 40.Rb2 Nb4 ]

**38...Rxa2+ 39.Kf3! Ra3+ 40.Kf2 Ra2+ 41.Kf3! Nc3 42.Ke3!?**

[In case of 42.Rb8+?! Kd7 43.Nxf7 Kc7 followed by ...a5-a4 Black's passed pawn could become very strong. Repels Rb7+ ]

**42...a4 43.Nxf7 a3 44.Nd6+ Kf8 45.Rf7+** -0.37/5

[ 45.Kd4= 0.00/27 Ne2+ 46.Ke3 ]

**45...Kg8∓ 46.Ra7 Ra1** aiming for ...a2. **47.Kd4!** White's task has become difficult but it can still be solved with the help of all his pieces. **47...Nd5 48.Nb5 Nb4**

[ 48...a2!? deserved attention but White could still defend: 49.Nc3

**A)** 49...Nb4!? 50.Ra4 h4 51.Nxa2 *( 51.Rxb4? Rd1+ Decoy 52.Nxd1 a1Q+ 53.Nc3 h3-+ )* 51...Nxa2∓;

**B)** 49...Nb4 50.Ra8+! *( 50.Ra4 h4! could almost be a transposition to the game)* 50...Kf7 51.h4! Ke7 52.Ra4 and White was holding on. ]

**49.Ra8+?!**

[ 49.Kc4 a2 50.Nd4 was easier: Rc1+ 51.Kxb4 a1Q 52.Rxa1 Rxa1 53.Nxe6= ]

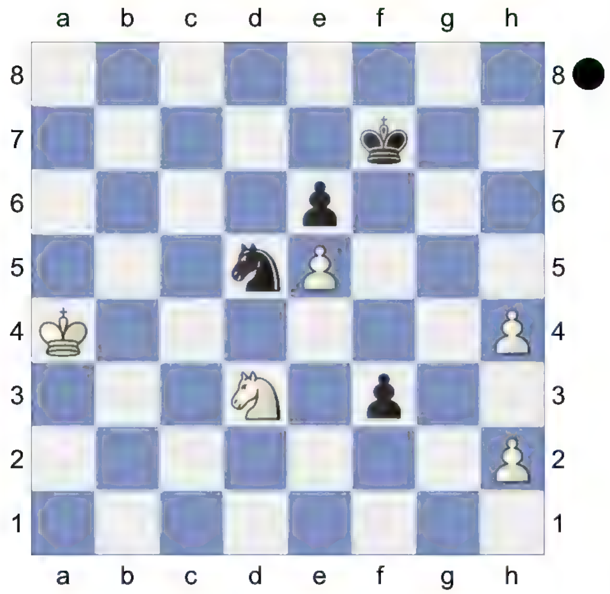
**49...Kf7 50.Nc3** This mistake makes White's task much more difficult. Wards off Rd1+

[ 50.Nd6+! should have been played: Kg7 51.Kc5 a2 And now ...Rb1 would win. 52.Kxb4 Rb1+ 53.Kc5 a1Q 54.Rxa1 Rxa1 55.Kc6! Threatens to win with Kd7. Ra7 56.Nc8⇄ with sufficient counterplay. ]

**50...a2 51.Ra4 h4!** This important resource poses serious problems for White. **52.Rxb4??** -5.19/29

[ 52.gxh4? -5.29/22 52.Nxa2 -0.25 was strongly met by Rf1! 53.Nxa2

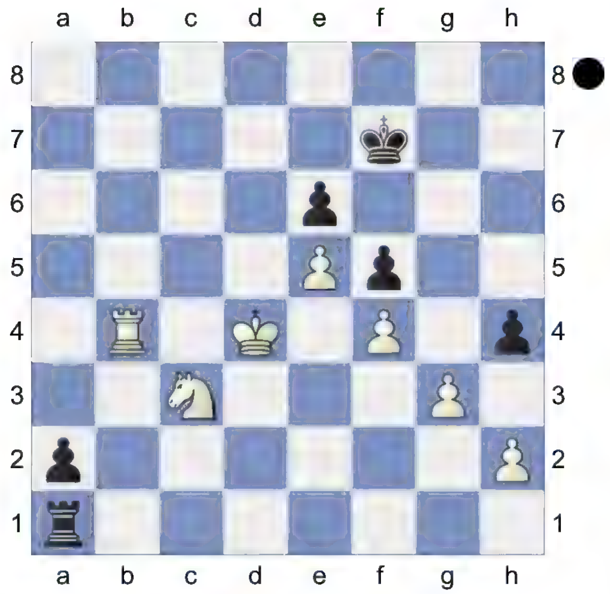
Rxf4+ 54.Kc3 Nd5+ 55.Kb3 Rxa4 56.Kxa4 f4 and White couldn't stop the pawn:. ...f3 is the strong threat. 57.Nc1 f3 White must now prevent ...f2. 58.Nd3



Nc3+! 59.Kb4 Ne4-+ ]

[ 52.Nxa2! was the only way to stay in the game: Nxa2 53.Ra7+ Kg6 54.Kc5!⇄ with counter chances. ]

[ 52.Nxa2!= -0.08/22 and White has nothing to worry. Nxa2 53.Ra7+ Kg6 54.Kc5 ]



**52...Rd1+!!-+** Decoy. Black is clearly winning. **53.Nxd1** White wants to mate with Rb7+. **53...a1Q+**

[ 53...a1B+ 54.Kc5 Kg6 55.Ra4 *( 55.gxh4 Kh5 56.Ra4 Kg4 57.Kd6 Bxe5+ 58.Kxe5 Kh3 59.Ra2 Kg4 )* 55...hxg3 56.hxg3 *( 56.Rxa1 gxh2 57.Nf2 Kh5 58.Kd6 Kh4 59.Kxe6 Kg3 60.Kxf5 Kxf2 )* 56...Kh5 57.Rxa1 Kg4 58.Ra3 ]

**54.Nc3 h3** White resigned as he is losing the h2-pawn, after which Black's far-advanced h-pawn will be too costly.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.19 (very precise) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Zhang,Ziji 2432**

■ **Sethuraman,S 2638**

2nd Binhai Cup 2020 (6.3) 16.01.2020

*[GM R Hungaski,MH]*

**1.d4 Nf6**

[ An analogous position arises after the moves 1...d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5 Bb4 *( 8...Nb6 9.Be3 Bb4 10.Nd2 axb5 11.Rxa8 Nxa8 12.Qg4↑ Kramnik-Korchnoi)* 9.Qd2 Nb6 10.Be2 Bb7 11.bxa6 Rxa6 12.Rxa6 Nxa6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qf4∞ Grandelius-Edouard ]

**2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5!?** This variation is starting to overtake 5...Bb4 as the main line. The positions great resemble the one that arises out of the Queen's Gambit Accepted after the moves 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3. Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.a4 e6 8.axb5. Black thus changes the character of the position and avoids the long and sharp theoretical lines that characterize the classical Vienna

[ 5...Bb4 ]

**6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6** We have arrived at our first important crossroads. The material remains even, but it seems Black's c4-pawn will soon be lost. However, White's center has been forced to overextend and this has left the light-squares, and the d4-pawn in particular, vulnerable **8.Be2**

[ 8.a4!? If White wants to play this move, now is the time to do it! (before Black gets an opportunity to develop the knight to c6 and play ...Na5)

**A)** 8...Ba6 9.Na3 Bb4+ ( *9...Bxa3 10.Rxa3 Qd5 11.g3 Nc6 12.Bg2 Rd8 13.0-0±; 9...Qd5!? 10.Be2 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0∞* ) 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Qxd2 c3 12.Qxc3 ( *12.bxc3!?±* ) 12...Bxf1 13.Kxf1 0-0 14.Nc4 ( *14.h4!?→* ) 14...a5 15.Nxa5 Qd5 16.b4 Nxa4≌ 1/2-1/2 (33) Jacobson,A (2336)-Berczes,D (2433) Charlotte USA 2020;

**B)** 8...Nc6?! 9.a5±;

**C)** 8...a6 9.Na3 ( *9.Nc3* )

**C1)** 9...Bb7!? 10.a5 Bxf3 11.gxf3 ( *11.Qxf3 Bb4+* ) 11...Bb4+ 12.Bd2 Bxd2+ 13.Qxd2 Nd5 14.Nxc4 Nc6≌;

**C2)** 9...Bxa3 10.Rxa3 a5 11.Ng5 h6 12.Ne4 Bb7 13.Nc5 Bd5 14.Qg4↑ 0-1 (54) Tsolakidou,S (2403) -Guo,A (2301) Charlotte 2020 ]

**8...Be7**

[ I think that in general Black should expedite the kingside development, especially since the light-squared bishop's future is uncertain. It's not clear whether this bishop will be better off on b7 or perhaps a6 8...Bb7 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 Qd7 11.Qc1 Na5 12.Nc3 Qc6 13.Bd2 ( *13.b3 Bb4 14.Rb1 0-0 15.bxc4 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Naxc4 17.Bxc4 Nxc4 18.Rxb7 Qxb7 19.Qxc4±* ) 13...Bb4 14.Nb1 Nd5 15.Bxb4 Nxb4 16.Nbd2 Nd3 17.Qc3 Nf4 18.Rfe1 Nxe2+ 19.Rxe2 Qb6∞ 1-0 (36) Tan Zhongyi (2493)-Lagarde, M (2651) Caleta 2020 ]

**9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qd2!** This move has only been mentioned in passing so far on the site, but it has become the critical move. Once again we see similarities with the aforementioned line of the QGA. There too White has been looking for ways to transfer the queen over to the kingside

[Another recent game went 10.Be3 0-0 11.a4?! ( *11.Qd2* was discussed in Wojtaszek-Duda, Polish Championship 2018 - see archive) 11...Ba6 Here we see a case where it actually paid off to leave the bishop on c8 ( *11...Na5!?* ) 12.Na3 Na5! this is how Black should aim to punish a2-a4 13.Qc2 Qd7 14.Nd2 Nb3 15.Rae1? ( *15.Nxb3 cxb3 16.Qd2 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Nxa4∓* ) 15...Bxa3 16.bxa3 Qxa4∓ Midilesh,M (1697)-Aleksandrov,A (2592) Chennai 2020 ]

[ 10.Nc3 was discussed in the game Mamedyarov-Caruana, Sinquefield Cup 2018 - see archive ]

**10...Bb7!?** I like this idea as it anticipates White's plan of Qd2-f4-g3 by flirting with the idea of castling queenside and launching a pawn storm on the kingside by means of ...g7-g5

[ Black's most common move is 10...0-0 11.Qf4

**A)** 11...Nb4 12.Rd1 a5 ( *12...Bb7*

*13.Qg4 Kh8 14.Nc3 Qd7 15.Qh3 f5 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Bf4 N6d5 18.Bg3±* Black took on serious weaknesses on the kingside without neutralizing White's initiative. He was lucky to survive in the game Nihal,S (2610)-Alekseenko,K (2650) Konya 2019*)* 13.Qg4 Kh8 14.Nc3 f5 15.exf6 gxf6 1/2-1/2 (33) Leko,P (2674) - Maghsoodloo,P (2656) Biel 2019 16.Qh4±;

**B)** 11...Rb8 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Nb4 *( 13...Na4?! 14.Bxc4 Ba6 15.Nxa7 Nxa7 16.Bxa6 Nxb2 17.Re1±* 1-0 (42) Dreev,A (2670)-Nihal,S (2576) St Petersburg 2018 *)* 14.Nc3 Bb7 15.Rb1 *( 15.Bg5 f6 16.exf6 gxf6 17.Be3* leads to a typical position for this variation, as in the game Lazavik,D (2411)-Esipenko,A (2642) Tallinn 2019. However, Black's weaknesses are compensated by his active pieces. Here, he could have taken over the initiative with *Rg8! 18.Qh3 Nc2 19.Rac1 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Bd6→ )* 15...N4d5 16.Ne4 f5 17.exf6 gxf6 Once again we arrive at this structure. White must proceed with caution 18.Nc5 Bc8 19.Ne4 Qe8 20.Bd2 Rg8 21.Qh4 e5↑ 0-1 (86) Esipenko,A (2603)-Maghsoodloo,P (2666) Moscow 2019 ]

[ Black has recently tried the interesting 10...Nb4!? 11.Qf4 *( 11.a3 Nd3 12.Bxd3 cxd3 13.Qxd3 Bb7≌ )* 11...Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Ne4 *( 13.Qg3 )* 13...Nd3 14.Bxd3 cxd3 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.dxc5 Nd5 17.Qe4 Qb5 *( 17...Bc6!?∓ )* 18.a4 Qxc5 19.Qxd3 0-0-0 20.Bg5 Nb4 21.Qc3 Rd5∞ 0-1 (56) Basso,P (2522)-Ter Sahakyan,S (2574) Villorba 2019 ]

**11.Rd1**

[ White's most natural continuation is 11.Qf4 Qd7

**A)** 12.Nc3 h6?! *( 12...f5!? 13.exf6 gxf6 14.Rd1 0-0-0∞ )* 13.Rd1 g5 14.Qg3 0-0-0 15.Be3 Nb4 16.Nd2 h5 17.Nxc4± 1-0 (81) Keymer,V (2516)-Meier,G (2628) Karlsruhe/Baden Baden 2019;

**B)** 12.Be3 g5! 13.Nxg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 Ne7 15.Nxc7+ Qxc7 16.f3 Rg8 17.Qh5 Nf5-+ 0-1 (17) Korley,K (2468)-Shimanov,A (2614) Chicago 2019;

**C)** 12.Qg4 0-0-0 13.Be3 *( 13.Qxg7? a6 14.Nc3 Rhg8 15.Qxh7 Nxd4-+ )* 13...h5 14.Qg3 g5 15.Nxg5 h4 16.Qh3 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Rdg8 18.f4 Nxd4∓ 0-1 (56) Assaubayeva,B (2375)-Goltseva,E (2297) Moscow RUS 2019;

**D)** 12.Qg3 0-0-0∞;

**E)** 12.Rd1

**E1)** 12...0-0-0 13.Qxf7± *( 13.d5!? )*;

**E2)** 12...g5! 13.Nxg5 Bxg5 14.Qxg5 Ne7 After this thematic move (see Korley-Shimanov) it seems like White is in trouble since he must deal with the threat of ...Rg8 as well as ...Qxb5 15.d5□ Nbxd5 *( 15...Rg8? 16.dxe6-+; 15...Qxb5? 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.Bh5+-+ )* 16.a4 *( 16.Nc3? Rg8 17.Qd2 Rxg2+ 18.Kxg2 Nxc3+ 19.f3 Nxd1 20.Qxd7+ Kxd7 21.Bxd1 Ng6∓* 0-1 (23) Zabolotnov,E (2255)-Kardashevskiy,E (2428) St Petersburg RUS 2019*)* 16...Rg8

17.Qd2 a6 18.Nd4 0-0-0↑ 0-1 (28) Erdos,V (2613)-Xiong,J (2712) Saint Louis USA 2019 ]

**11...Qd7 12.Nc3 Nb4 13.b3?!N** Here White deviates from the standard plan of attacking on the kingside and instead focuses on the other side of the board

[ 13.Qf4

**A)** 13...0-0-0?! 14.Qxf7 Rdf8 15.Qh5! Rf5 16.Qh3 N4d5 1.36/17 ( *⌓16...h5* 0.74/21 ) 17.Nxd5± Bxd5 18.Be3 0.42/20 ( *18.Ne1+-* 1.83/19 ) 18...g5!⩲ 19.Ne1 0.13/15 ( *19.Qg3⩲* 0.58/22 ) 19...h5!= 20.g4 -0.12/19 ( *20.b3⩲* 0.36/21 ) 20...Rff8 0.97/20 ( *20...Rf7!=* -0.12/19 remains equal.) 21.gxh5+- 1-0 (30) Greenfeld,A (2513)-Risting,E (2357) Teplice 2019;

**B)** 13...0-0 14.Qg3→ is exactly the kind of position White is looking for;

**C)** 13...f5! An opportune moment to play this move. If White captures, then Black can castle queenside and use the open g-file. If White does not capture, then castling kingside become a much more appealing idea since the pawn on f5 severely curtails White's attack

**C1)** 14.exf6 gxf6 15.d5

**C1a)** 15...e5? 1.09/21 15...N4xd5 0.42

**C1a1)** 16.Qg3 Black must now prevent Nxe5! N6xd5? 2.68/21 ( *16...Bd6±* 1.17/18 was necessary. ) 17.Nh4±;

**C1a2)** Better is 16.Qg3± 1.09/21;

**C1a3)** 16.Qh4 0.30/18 16...0-0-0= 17.Bxc4 -0.42/23 ( White should play *17.Be3=* 0.12/17 ) 17...Nxc4 18.Qxc4 Nxd5 19.Nxd5 Bxd5 20.Qa6+ Bb7!∓ 1/2-1/2 (58) Li,D (2523)-Sunilduth Lyna,N (2616) Changsha 2019;

**C1b)** 15...N4xd5 16.Nxd5 Bxd5∞;

**C2)** 14.exf6⩲ 0.49/22 gxf6 15.b3;

**C3)** 14.Qg3 0.01/20 14...0-0 0.42/24 ( *14...0-0-0!?* 0.78/19 14...g5 0.08; *14...g5=* 0.01/20 deserves consideration.) 15.h4 ( *15.Bh6 Rf7 16.Ne1 Bf8 17.Bh5 g6 18.Bxf8 Raxf8 19.Be2 Qe7∞* ) 15...Kh8 16.Bg5 N4d5

**C3a)** 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 18.Nd2 0.00/22 ( *18.Bxe7⩲* 0.37/22 *Qxe7 19.Rac1* ) 18...c5 0.75/21 ( *18...Bb4!=* 0.00/22 ) 19.Bxe7± Qxe7 20.dxc5 0.24/22 ( *20.Qa3!±* 0.86/23 ) 20...Qxc5= 21.Rac1∞;

**C3b)** 17.Rac1⩲ 0.60/24 should be considered.;

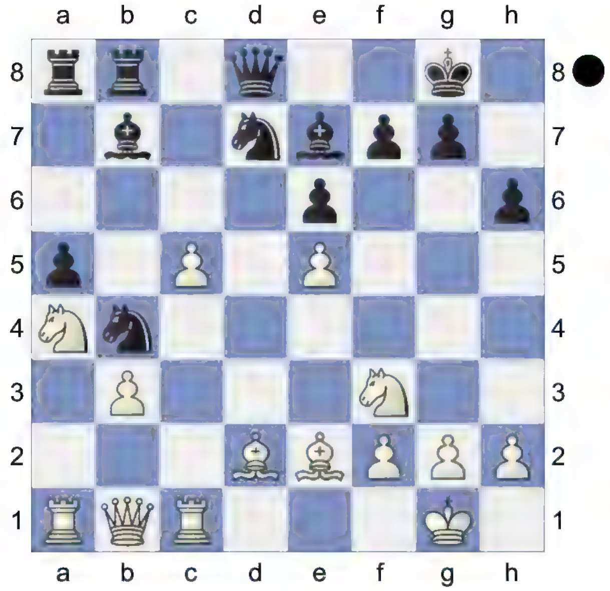
**C3c)** 17.Nd2 0.15/24 17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 Bd5 19.a4 a5 20.Rdb1 Bxg5 21.hxg5 f4 22.Qh3 Nxa4 1.18/25 ( *22...Qe7⩲* 0.54/21 ) 23.Nxc4?!± ( *23.Bd1!?→* 0.62/23 23.Nxc4 1.09) 23...f3!⇄ 1/2-1/2 (38) Ding,L (2805)-Caruana,F (2818) Saint Louis 2019 ]

**13...cxb3 14.axb3 0-0 15.Qb2 a5 16.Bd2 Rfb8⇄** It's not clear what White has accomplished by playing b2-b3 and placing the queen on b2. Now Black has a clear target on b3 and there seems to be little to worry about on the kingside

**17.Qb1 h6 18.Ne4 Qd5 19.Nc3 Qd8 20.Rc1 Nd7**

[ One of Black's most important accomplishments in these types of positions is the trading of the d4-pawn for the c7-pawn 20...c5! 21.dxc5 Bxc5 And now ...Bxf3 would win. 22.Ne4 Be7∓ appears to be simple and good ]

**21.Na4 c5 22.dxc5**



**Nxe5?!** 0.54/24 An interesting idea, but one that fails tactically

[ 22...Bxf3 23.Bxf3 Nxe5! 24.Bxa8 Qxd2=∞ looks quite reasonable for Black ]

[ 22...Rc8 23.Be3± ]

[ 22...Rc8!= -0.24/22 ]

**23.Bf4?** -1.07/22

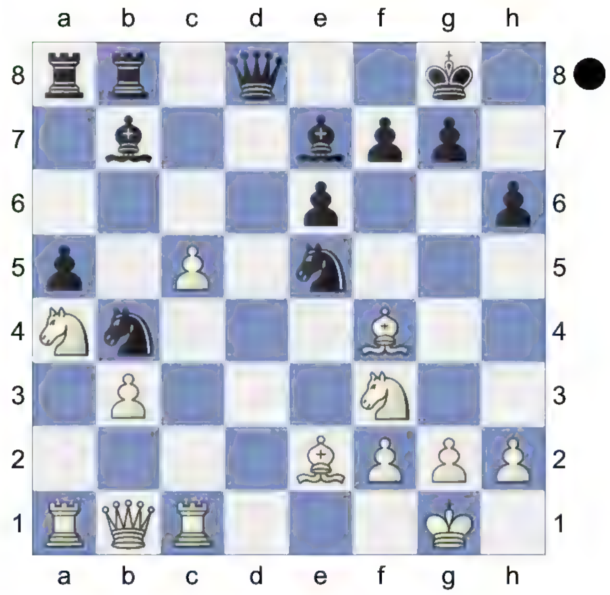
[ 23.Nxe5 -0.25/16 23.Bxb4 0.73 Qxd2 24.Bf3 Bxf3 25.Nxf3 Qf4 26.Rc4 Qc7 27.Qe4 Rd8 28.g3 Bf6 29.Rac1 Rab8∓ ]

[ 23.Bxb4! Nxf3+ 1.62/26 ( *23...Bxf3!± 0.66/22 24.Bc3 Bxe2 25.Bxe5 Ba6* )

**A)** 24.Bxf3? -0.43/19 24.gxf3 1.53 Bxf3 25.Bc3 -0.88/20 ( *25.Be1!= -0.29/22 Bc6 26.Rd1* ) 25...Bc6∓;

**B)** 24.gxf3!+- an easy move to miss! 24...axb4 25.c6± ]

[ 23.Bxb4!± 0.54/24 keeps the upper hand. Bxf3 ( *23...Nxf3+ 24.gxf3 Bg5 25.Ba3+-* ) 24.Bc3 Bxe2 25.Bxe5 ]



White misses a golden opportunity to turn the tables on Black. Winning the exchange is hardly relevant here. It is much more important to push the c-pawn **23...Nxf3+!∓ 24.Bxf3 Bxf3 25.Bxb8** -2.04/23

[ 25.gxf3∓ -0.90/23 Bf6 26.Bxb8 Rxb8 27.Ra3 ( *27.Rd1 Bd4∓* )]

**25...Bxg2 26.Kxg2** -1.89/20

[ 26.Rd1∓ -1.37/21 Qxb8 ( *26...Bd5 27.Bg3=* ) 27.Kxg2 ]

**26...Qd5+-+**

[ 26...Rxb8 27.Qe4= ]

**27.f3** -2.08/22

[ 27.Kg1∓ -1.59/24 Rxb8 28.Rc4 ]

**27...Rxb8-+ 28.Qe4?** -4.21/17

[ 28.Nb6 -2.08/20 Qd2+ 29.Kh1 ]

**28...Qd2+-+**

[Worse is 28...Qxb3 29.c6 Bd6 30.c7= ]

**29.Kf1** -5.77/19

[ ⌓29.Kh1 -4.11/21 Nd3 Discovered Attack 30.Rf1 Nf2+ ( *30...Rxb3?*

*31.Qa8+ Bf8 32.Rfb1-+; 30...Nxc5 31.Nxc5 Bxc5 32.Rfd1∓ )* 31.Rxf2 Qxf2 32.Qd3 ]

**29...Nd5-+ 30.Kg1 Bf6 31.Rab1** -7.54/22

[ ⌓31.Qe1 -4.52/21 Qg5+ *( 31...Qxe1+ 32.Rxe1 Bxa1 33.Rxa1-+ )* 32.Kh1 Bxa1 *( 32...Rxb3? 33.Rab1-+ )* 33.Rxa1 ]

**31...Ne3-+ 32.f4 Bd4 33.Kh1 Ng4 34.Qc2** -20.47/22

[ ⌓34.Rc2 -4.96/21 Nf2+ 35.Kg2 Nxe4+ Discovered Attack (Check) 36.Rxd2 Nxd2 37.Rd1 ]

**34...Qxf4**

[ 34...Nf2+ 35.Kg2 Qxf4-+ ]

**35.h3**

[ 35.Rf1 Bf2 36.Rxf2 Nxf2+ 37.Kg2 Ng4-+ ]

**35...Bf2**

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Edouard,Romain** **2636**

■ **Magem Badals,Jordi** **2593**

Barcelona Casino (4) 07.11.2010

*[Ed Romain,MH]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

After a rather "slow" start with 1,5/3, it was important for me to score some points. I had a double-edged play in many games, and I must say that it didn't work really well all the time! Still, the following game was a good one and I could get the full point thanks to few inaccuracies from my opponent. **1.d4** Edouard,R Edouard,R Edouard,R **1...d5 2.c4 e6** My opponent is deviating from his usual Queens Gambit Accepted. I guess he had some problems with it recently: he was in trouble against me in the last Olympiads (though he defended brillantly and could recover the situation) and had lost two days before to Jussupow. **3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4** The Vienna defense. **6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

B) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...h6!?**

[ 6...c5 is main here. ]

**7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.e5!?** An interesting move, forcing Black's queen to show its transient destination. **8...Qd8**

[ 8...Qe7 would be wrong in my opinion: this is not a good square for the queen. Now I will play the normal plan and after (for example) 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 Strongly threatening Ne4. cxd4 11.Ne4 (with ideas like ♗d3, ♕e2, ♘g3, ♕e4...) Black has some extra problems regarding his bishop on b4 (unable to go back at once, while the loss of one tempo could be decisive facing White's attack). ]

**9.Qa4+!?** -0.21/18 The extra option!

[ ⌓9.Bxc4 0.28/23 c5 10.d5 ]

**9...Nc6=** And now ...Bd7 would win.

**10.Bxc4** The position is equal. **10...Bd7 11.Qc2 Na5** 0.38/22

[ 11...Ne7!? with simple ideas like ...♗c6, ...♘d5/...♘f5 was played in Alekseev-Grischuk 2010. ]

[ 11...Bxc3+= -0.22/24 12.Qxc3 Ne7 ]

**12.Be2** -0.04/22 I think a better move than 12.♗d3, that occured in Ivanchuk-Kramnik 2009.

[ 12.Bd3± 0.38/22 ]

**12...c5** Of course, now it not possible to let White go a3-b4. **13.dxc5**

[ 13.Rd1!? is also possible, as after c4 14.d5! I would be better. ]

**13...Rc8**

[ 13...Bxc5 0.73/22 13...Rc8 0.32 14.0-0! should not change much in my opinion. Sooner or later, Black will have problems with a3, ♖d1, b4, etc... ]

**14.a3! Bxc5 15.0-0** b4 is the strong threat. Now the threat b4 will come.

[ 15.b4!? is interesting, for instance: Be7 16.0-0 ( *16.bxa5?* -2.12/24 16.Rc1 -0.10 *Qxa5 17.Rc1 Bxa3 is just bad for White.*) 16...Nc4 17.Qe4 Nb6 18.Rac1 and White's position is more pleasant to play. Still, I prefer what I did in the game, putting up problem regarding Black's castling. ]

**15...Be7 16.Rfd1 Qc7 17.Qd3!?**

[ 17.Qd3!? ]

**17...Nc4?!**

[ 17...Rd8 was the only move: 18.b4 ( *18.Qe3±* 0.06/19 18.b4 0.66) 18...Ba4! 19.Nb5! Qb8 ( *19...Bxb5 20.Qxb5+ Nc6 21.Qc4!* is clearly better for White (thanks to the pawn on b4). ) 20.Nd6+ Bxd6 21.exd6 Bxd1 22.Rxd1 Nc6 23.b5 Ne7! Hoping for ...Nd5.(the move I first overlooked) but after something like 24.Qd4 Threatens to win with Qa4! Nf5 25.d7+

A) 25...Kf8?! 1.71/20 25...Ke7 0.99 26.Qc5+ Kg8? 3.60/21 ( *⌓26...Ne7* 1.84/20 *27.Ne5 g6* ) 27.g4+-;

B) 25...Ke7 26.Qb4+ Nd6! 27.Ne5 White should be much better. ]

**18.Qd4! Nb6**

[ 18...Nxb2? 3.46/23 18...Na5 0.45 fails to 19.Nb5 and the knight on b2 is hanging! ]

**19.Ne4! 0-0** 0.93/19

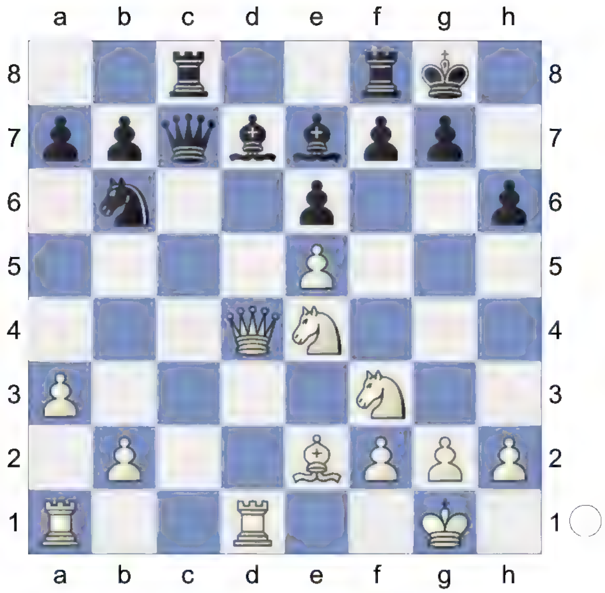
[ 19...Nd5 1.83/18 19...Qb8 0.46 20.Nd6+! Bxd6 21.exd6 Qxd6 2.56/22 ( *21...Qd8* 1.90/21 is a better defense. *22.Qxg7 Qf6 23.Qxf6 Nxf6* ) 22.Qxg7+- Rf8 23.Ne5+- ]

[Black should play 19...Qb8± 0.35/24 ]

(Diagram)

**20.Nf6+!±** Double Attack **20...Kh8?** 3.16/22

[ 20...gxf6 2.53/22 20...Bxf6 1.09 21.exf6 Threatening mate with Qg4+. e5 22.Qh4+- ]



[ 20...Bxf6 21.exf6 just wins for White. ]

[ 20...gxf6? loses. 21.exf6 e5 22.Qh4 *( 22.Qxe5 Qxe5* Remove Defender *23.Nxe5 Bxf6= )* 22...Bxf6 23.Qxf6+- ]

[ 20...Bxf6± 1.07/20 might work better. 21.exf6 g5 ]

**21.Nxd7+-** A dynamic duo of knights.
**21...Rcd8**

[ 21...Rfd8 22.Bb5+- *( 22.Qf4+- )*]

**22.Bb5** The move overlooked by my opponent (who was in time trouble), thought here the simple 22.♖ac1 is enough to remain a piece up.

[ 22.Rac1 Qxd7 23.Qxd7 Rxd7 24.Rxd7 Nxd7 25.Rc7+- ]

**22...Nxd7 23.Bxd7**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.31After this victory I was having a positive score for the first time. However, I suffered two losses in a row in two balanced games, in which I was too much optimistic so far! Eventually I could end up with 4,5 out of 9, which wasn't so bad, losing 3 games in the tournament!

**1-0**

**D39**
☐ **Lysyj,Igor** **2609**
■ **Wojtaszek,Radoslaw** **2637**
Rilton Cup Stockholm (6) 02.01.2010
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Radoslav Wojtaszek chose a rare option, but one which is recently becoming a popular antidote to White's old main line. Black solved his problems quite comfortably and it seems that White will have to work hard if he really wants to fight for an advantage in this line.
D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H

(2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4! a6!? 13.Qxc4**

[ 13.Bxc4 b5 14.Qc2 bxc4∓ ]

**13...e5** This rare approach has recently gained some popularity and it might really be a good antidote to White's opening choice. **14.Nxe5** Deflection **14...Nxe5 15.Qxd4 Qc7+** 0.17/23

[ ⌓15...0-0! -0.22/21 ]

**16.Kb1=**

[ In the game Riazantsev - Sorokin/ Salekhard 2006, Black was fine in the ending after 16.Qc3 Rc8 17.Qxc7! Rxc7+ 18.Kb1 Bf5 19.f3 0-0 20.Be2 Rfc8 and so on. ]

**16...0-0-0!?** A new and interesting continuation, which I already mentioned in the comments.

[ In the game Riazantsev - Perunovic, EU-ch Plovdiv 2008, Black played 16...Rc8? 1.51/21 16...Bf5 0.15 and here White could have achieved a big advantage by the rather unexpected 17.Bxa6! ( in the game he was also better after *17.Be2* 1.05/18 17.Bxa6 1.53 *Bf5 18.Ka1±* ) 17...Bf5 ( *17...bxa6* 2.70/23 17...Bf5 1.63 *18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxf6+-* ) 18.Bb5+ Kf8 ...Qc2+ is the strong threat. 19.Ka1± ]

[while 16...Bf5 does not equalise completely: 17.Be2 Qc6 And now ... Rd8! would win. 18.f3 0-0 19.Qe3 Rac8 20.Ka1± with a small advantage for White. ]

**17.Rc1** Pin

[ 17.Nxf6? is the wrong capture. Bf5+-+ ]

**17...Bc6 18.Qe3** White's chances look slightly better due to Black's damaged pawn structure. However, Black's lead in development may compensate that. **18...f5** 0.78/19

[ 18...Ng4= 0.28/19 19.Qf3 Ne5 20.Qf5+ Qd7 21.Qxd7+ Kxd7 ]

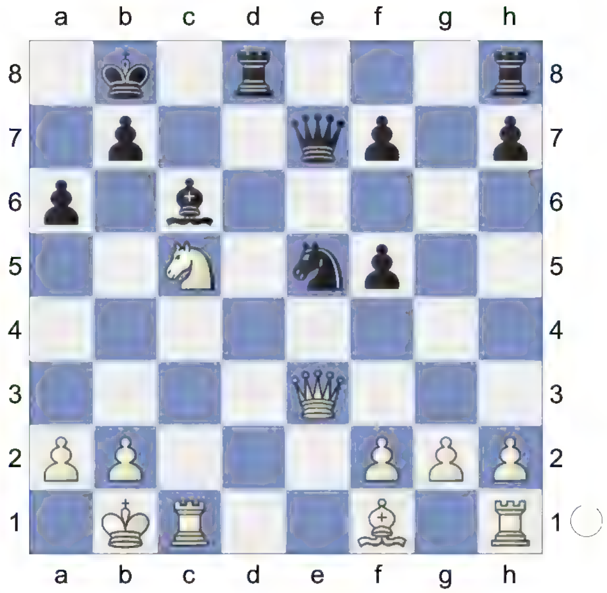
**19.Bxe7!± Qxe7**

[ 19...Bxe4+? loses. 20.Ka1 Nc6 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.f3+- ]

**20.Nc5**

[ 20.Ng3 -0.22/21 20.Nc5 0.42 was another option but Black seemed to be okay: Kb8 21.f3 ( *21.Nxf5 Qf6↑* ) 21...Qe6! ( *21...Rhe8 22.Qf4! Ka8 23.Be2* might have been a bit better for White ) 22.Qf4 Bd5 Prevents Bc4. 23.a3! Rhe8⇄ with excellent counter chances. ]

**20...Kb8**



**21.Bxa6!** This tempting blow looks strong but Black can defend. **21...bxa6**

[ 21...Rd5 22.Rhe1 ]

**22.Rhe1** 0.00/32

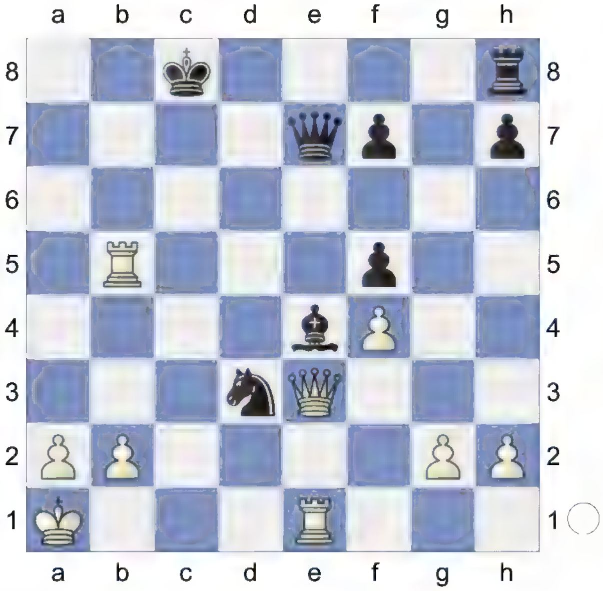
[ 22.Nxa6+ -0.16/19 22.Rc3 1.06 Ka8! 23.Rhe1 -0.97/26 ( *23.Ka1=* -0.25/22 keeps the balance.) 23...Rhe8 -0.51/24 (Black should play *23...Qa7∓* -0.97/26 aiming for ...Be4+. *24.Qa3 Be4+ 25.Ka1 Rc8 26.Nc7+ Kb8*

*27.Na6+ Kb7 28.Nc5+ Ka8 )* 24.Qb6 Rc8 would have brought White nothing but trouble. Inhibits Nc7+. ]

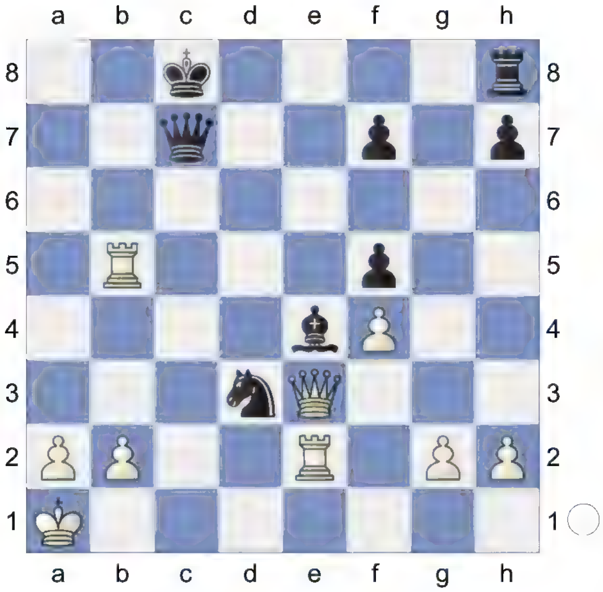
[ 22.Rc3!± 0.82/23 ]

**22...Be4+!=** The only reply, but sufficient. The position is equal.

[ Otherwise Black would have faced problems, for example: 22...Rd5? 3.22/20 22...Be4+ 0.00 23.Nxa6+ Kb7 24.Nc5+ Kb8 25.f4 Rxc5 26.Rxc5 Be4+ 27.Ka1 Nd3 28.Rb5+ Kc8



29.Re2! Qc7



Dodges Rc2. Hoping for ...Rd8! 30.Rb3!+- ]

**23.Nxe4**

[ 23.Ka1 -0.51/26 23.Nxe4 0.00 was well met by

**A)** not 23...Rhe8? 1.12/21 23...Qa7 -0.81 24.Nxa6+ Kb7 25.Rc7+ Qxc7 26.Nxc7 Kxc7 27.Qa7+ Kd6? 2.80/20 ( *27...Bb7±* 0.43/19 ) 28.f3+- Bd5 29.Qa3+↑ and White's queen was very strong against Black's open king;

**B)** 23...Qa7! 24.f3 ( *24.Qf4!? f6 25.Nxe4∓* ) 24...Nd3! 25.fxe4

**B1)** even 25...f4!? 26.Qg1 Rhe8 0.14/21 ( *26...Nxc1∓* -0.55/22 *27.Rxc1 Rc8* ) 27.Nxd3= Qxg1 28.Rxg1 Rxd3 was probably drawish;

**B2)** 25...Nxe1 26.Qxe1 Rhe8 0.00/18 and Black should be okay. ( *26...Ka8∓* -0.39/22 )]

**23...fxe4 24.Qxe4 Rhe8 25.Re3**

[ 25.f4 also led to a draw:. Black must now prevent Qxh7! Ng6 26.Qc6! Qxe1 27.Qb6+ Ka8= and White had to give perpetual check. ]

[ 25.f4!? Ng6□ 26.Qc6 Qxe1 27.Qc7+ Ka8 28.Qc6+ Ka7 29.Qc7+ Ka8 30.Qc6+ Ka7 31.Qc7+ Ka8= ]

**25...Qd7 26.Rb3+ Ka7** Strongly threatening ...Nd3. **27.Qe3+**

[ 27.Rbc3 was met by. Rc7+ would kill now. Re7 and White couldn't play 28.Rc7+?? -4.15/20 ( White should try *28.Qxh7∓* -0.35/21 *Qd5 29.Qc2* ) 28...Qxc7-+ 29.Rxc7+ Rxc7 30.Qxe5?? -#1/15 ( *30.Qe3+-+* -3.78/19 *Ka8 31.Qe4+ Kb8 32.Qb4+ Rb7 33.Qh4 Rd1+ 34.Kc2* ) 30...Rd1# ]

**27...Ka8! 28.Qe4+ Ka7! 29.Qe3+**

Draw agreed.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)
½-½

D39
☐ **Borovikov,Vladislav** **2599**
■ **Drozdovskij,Yuri** **2625**
TUR-chT Konya (1) 29.06.2010
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

White's new continuation does not seem really promising. Black gained an extra pawn in the opening at the cost of development and everything was fine for him until he carelessly took another one, after which his opponent's attack quickly escalated. White's new continuation does not seem really promising. Black gained an extra pawn in the opening at the cost of development and everything was fine for him until he carelessly took another one, after which his opponent's attack quickly escalated. **1.d4** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

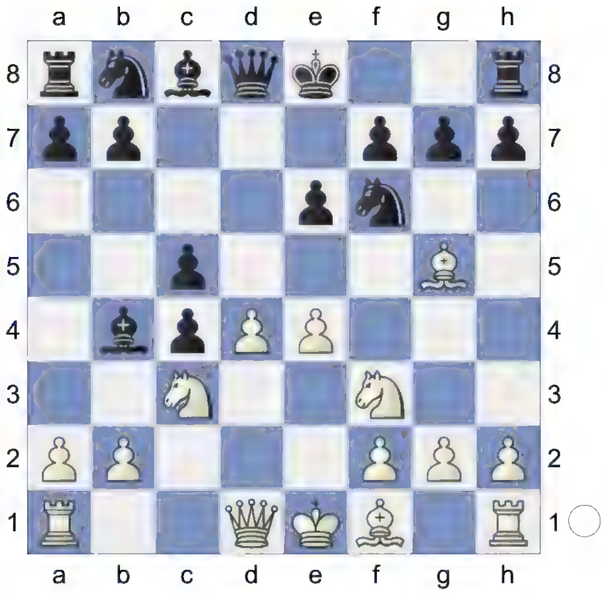
(Diagram)

' **7.Bxc4**

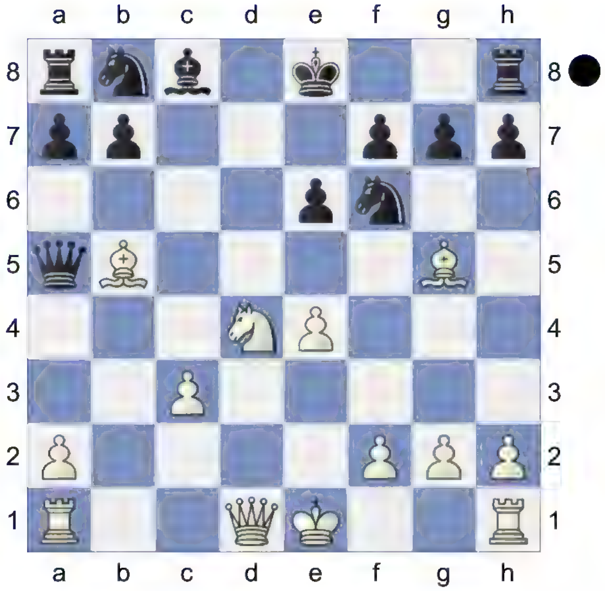
[Another mainstream line is 7.e5 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4 (CT-3497) ]

**7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+**

[The deviation 8...Qa5!? (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) was used by Anand against Kramnik in the 8th Bonn 2008 match game, but was tried surprisingly seldom afterwards ]



**9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



' **10...Nbd7** The more ambitious but certainly the more risky choice. Black gets an extra pawn but seriously delays his development. The more ambitious but certainly the more risky choice. Black gets an extra pawn but seriously delays his development.

[Also 10...Bd7 (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) is an important option ]

**11.Bxf6 Qxc3+**

[If 11...gxf6 (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) , White can play 12.0-0! (rather than *12.h4 a6!=* Aronian-Van Wely, Amber blindfold 2008 *)*]

**12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 a6**

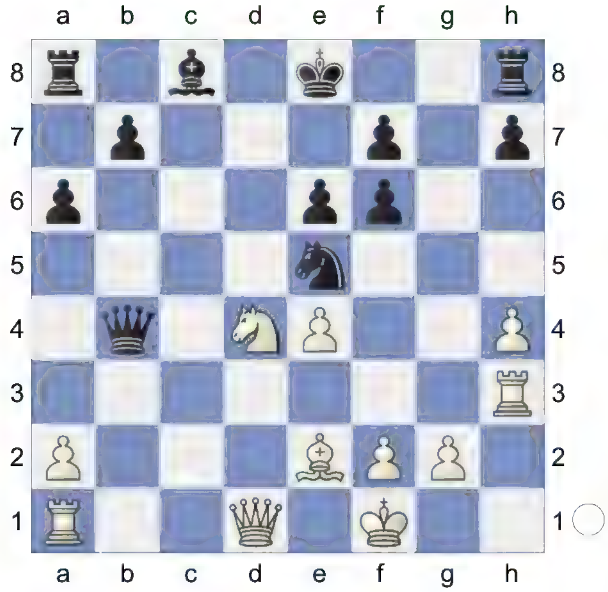
[After 13...Qa5 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) 14.Rh3 , e5 is refuted by 15.Nf5! Qxb5+ 16.Rd3!! , Dreev-Kishnev, ECC 2002, CT-690 ]

**14.Rh3 Qb4**

[Another retreat, 14...Qa5 (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) is out of fashion at GM level these days ]

**15.Be2 Ne5!?** This knight' sortie has recently gained popularity. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

[ One of the critical positions arises after the common 15...0-0 16.Rb1 Qd6 17.Rg3+ Kh8 18.Qd2 Rg8 19.Rbb3 Rxg3 20.Rxg3 - see the game Werle - Wells/ London 2008, for details. - see the game Werle - Wells/ London 2008, for details. ]



' **16.Rb3** A small innovation, which is possibly not the most promising continuation. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'N!?' Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'In the preceding games White tried other moves.' A small innovation, which is possibly not the most promising continuation.

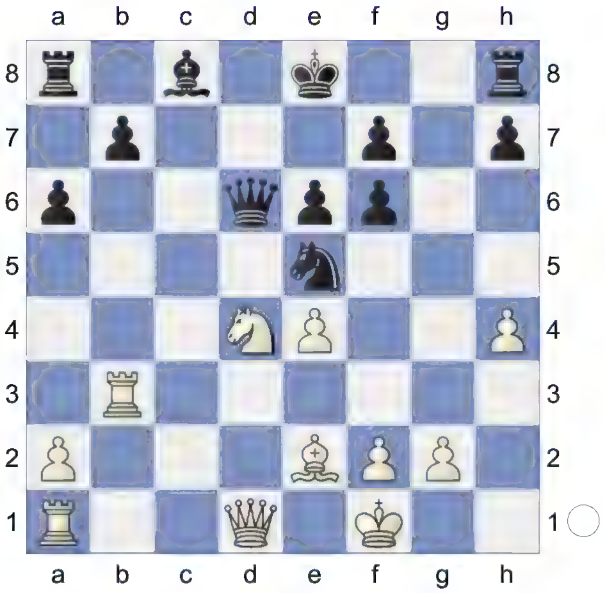
[ In the comments to the game Shulman - Naiditsch/Montreal 2009, in which White unsuccessfully tried 16.h5, I suggested In the comments to the game Shulman - Naiditsch/ Montreal 2009, in which White unsuccessfully tried 16. h5, I suggested 16.Rb1!? Qd6 17.Rb2!? *( 17.Rc3* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) *Ke7 18.f4 Nd7 19.Qd2 Rd8 20.Rd1 Qb6 21.Rb3 Qc5 22.Rc1 Qd6 23.Rd3 Qb6 24.Rb3* with a draw by repetition, Farago-K.Szabo, Balatonlelle 2006*; 17.h5* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) *b5 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.f4 Rd8 20.Rd1 Nc4∓* Harika-Kosteniuk, Beijing rapid 2008*)* 17...b5 18.Rd2 although things would be far from clear after although things would be far from clear after Qc7!? *( 18...Qb6* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) *19.f4 Ng6 20.f5 Nf4 21.Rg3 e5 22.Ne6 Nxe6 23.Rd6 Qc7 24.fxe6 Bxe6∓* Neven-M.Schulze, IECG email 2004*)* 19.a4 b4∞ ]

[ 16.Rc1 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) Qd6 17.Qd2 *( 17.Rb3!?* transposes to the featured game *)* 17...Bd7! 18.Kg1 Rd8 19.Qb2 Ba4 20.Nf3 Bc6 21.Nxe5 Qxe5 22.Qxe5 fxe5 23.Bxa6 Bxe4∓ Degtiarev-Naumann, Gibraltar 2010 ]

[ 16.h5 Mikhail Golubev (www.

chesstoday.net) Qd6 *( 16...Bd7?! 17.Rb3 Qd6 18.Rxb7↑* Gelfand-Naiditsch, Dresden OL 2008*)* 17.Kg1 Bd7 18.Rb1 Rd8 19.Rc3 b5 20.Rbc1 b4 21.Rg3 Ke7 22.f4 Be8 23.fxe5 fxe5∓ Shulman-Naiditsch, Montreal 2009 ]

**16...Qd6** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



The retreat to d6 seems to be logical, as it limits White's options.' **17.Rc1** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!?' '!' Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'transposes to the featured game'

[ In case of Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'The immediate' 17.Qd2 Black could have solved his problems by Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'allows' Nc6! Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '=!' 18.Rd3 *( the ending after 18.Rd1 Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxd4 b5* was harmless for Black*)* 18...Qh2! 19.Rh3 Qe5 20.Rd3 Qh2= with a repetition of moves. ]

[ 17.a4!? deserved attention, stopping ...b7-b5. However, Black seemed to be fine after 0-0 ]

**17...b5**

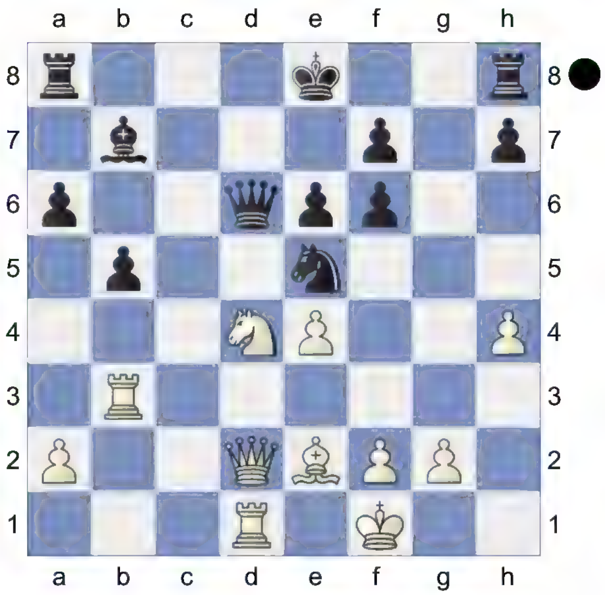
[ It was hard for Black to develop without moving his b-pawn. After 17...b6 (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) White could have continued as in the game: 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.Rd1 ]

**18.Qd2** This logical move does not pose any problems for Black. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!?'

[ 18.Rbc3 Bb7 19.f4 Nc4 was fine for Black. Then it would be a repetition again: was fine for Black. Then it would be a repetition again: 20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.e5 fxe5 22.fxe5 Qd5 23.Qa4+ Kf8 24.Qb4+ Ke8= ]

**18...Bb7 19.Rd1** White protects the knight and frees his queen. However, it gives Black the time to consolidate his position, too. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

[ 19.a4!? could have been met by could have been met by Nc6 with a possible repetition after 20.Rd3 Qh2 21.Rh3 Qd6= ]

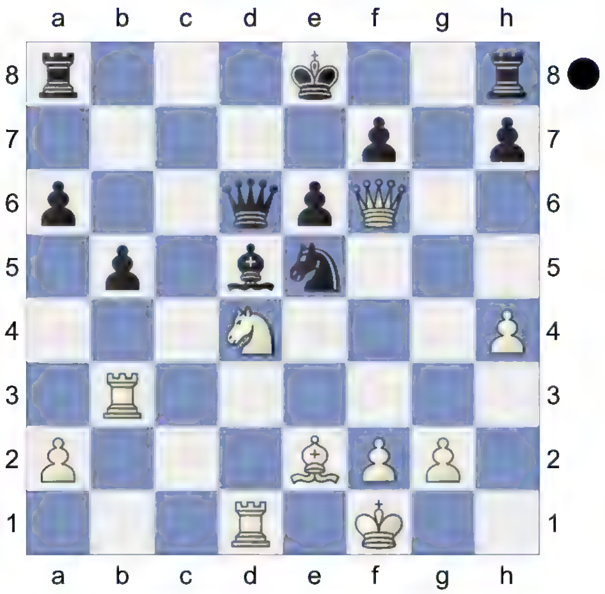


' White protects the knight and frees his queen. However, it gives Black the time to consolidate his position, too. **19...Bxe4?** A very careless move, which turns out to be a fatal mistake - Black clearly underestimates the danger. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '?!' A very careless move, which turns out to be a fatal mistake - Black clearly underestimates the danger.

[ After Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Probably, critical is' 19...Rg8! 20.Qf4 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): ' ≌' Qe7 with the idea ...Ra8-d8 Black was already at least not worse. ]

[Insufficient is 19...Nc6?! Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) 20.Qh6 *( 20.Rd3!? )* 20...Nxd4 21.Qxf6 Rg8 22.Bh5!? Qe7 23.Qxd4± ]

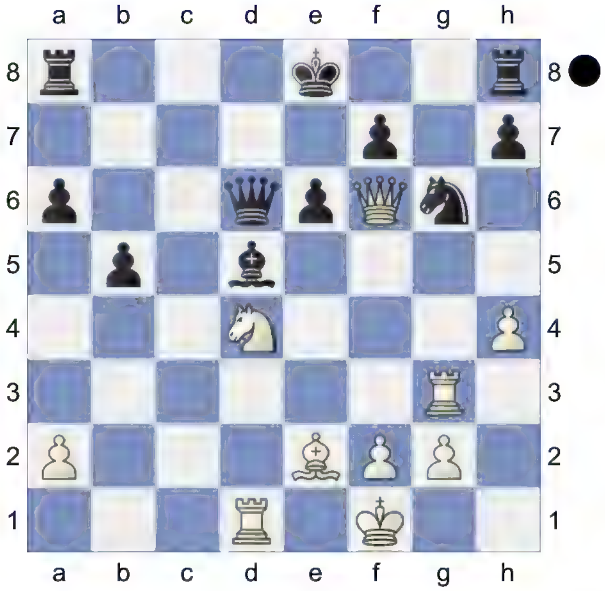
**20.Qf4** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!' **20...Bd5 21.Qxf6** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



' **21...Ng6**

[Also in the variation 21...Rg8 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) 22.Nf5! Bxg2+ 23.Ke1 Qc5 *( If 23...Qc7? 24.Nd6+ Kf8 25.Qxe5+- )* 24.Ng7+ *(Not 24.Nd6+? Kf8 25.Re3* because of *Qb4+ 26.Rd2 Bd5!* etc. *)* 24...Rxg7 25.Qxg7↑ White is considerably better ]

**22.Rg3↑** It was absolutely unnecessary to allow White's queen invasion. Black already faces serious problems. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): ' ±!' Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

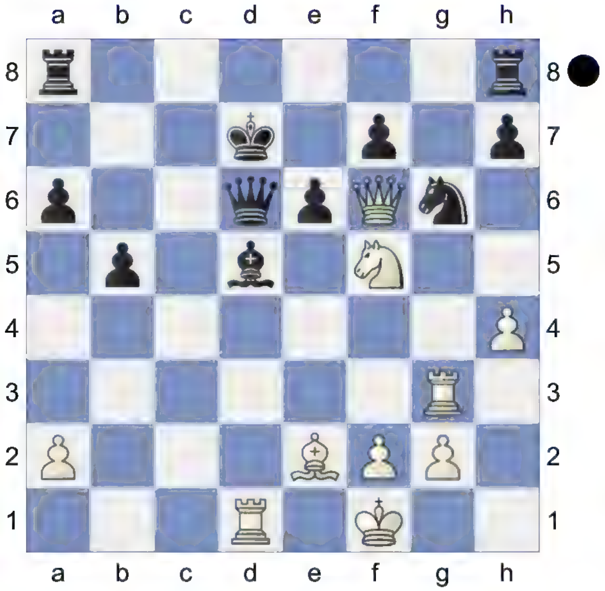


' It was absolutely unnecessary to allow White's queen invasion. Black already faces serious problems. **22...Kd7?**

[ Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'After' 22...Rf8 was more tenacious but it couldn't really help: was more tenacious but it couldn't really help: 23.Nf5! *(* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'unconvincing is' *23.Nxb5* was also better for White but Black kept drawing chances after Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '?!' was also better for White but Black kept drawing chances after *Qd8! 24.Qxd8+ Rxd8 25.Nc7+ Ke7 26.Nxd5+ Rxd5 27.Rxd5 exd5 28.Ra3± )* 23...Qd8 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'the most precise is' 24.Qc3!! Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!' ( Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'White should abstain from' *24.Ng7+* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '?' *Kd7∞ 25.Rxd5+* Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) *exd5 26.Bg4+ Kc7 27.Rc3+ Kb7* ) 24...Qb6 ( Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'and White's acivity decides, for example,' *24...exf5 25.Re3+ Ne7 26.Qc5+-* ) 25.Re3! Rd8 26.Ng7+ Ke7 27.h5+- with a decisive advantage. ]

[Much better for White is 22...Rg8 (Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net)) (the most stubborn) 23.Nf5 Qd8 24.Ng7+ Rxg7 25.Qxg7 Qxh4 26.Kg1± (But not *26.Rh3??* because of *Bxg2+ 27.Kxg2 Nf4+ 28.Kf3 Nxh3 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qxa8 Qxf2+-+* )]

**23.Nf5!** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '+-!' Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



Now Black's position collapses.'

**23...exf5**

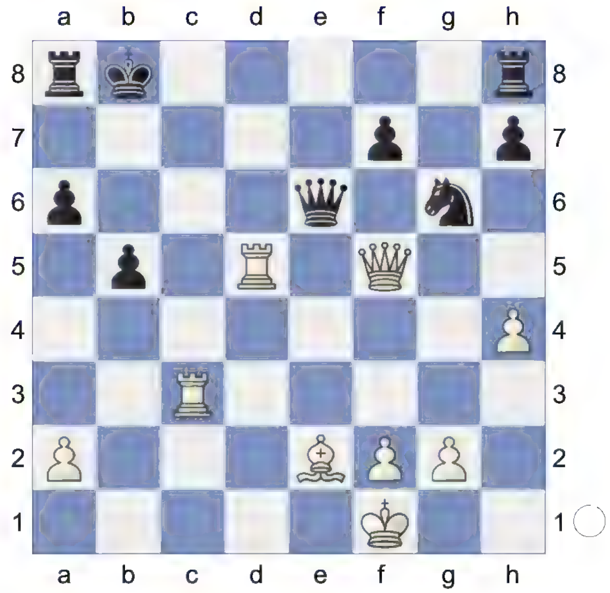
[Or 23...Qf8 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) 24.Bf3 ]

**24.Qxf5+ Qe6** Black was late getting his rooks into play and so cannot fight against his opponent's superior forces. Black was late getting his rooks into play and so cannot fight against his opponent's superior forces.

[ 24...Ke8! 25.Rxd5 Ne7! was the only way to stay in the game, but after was the only way to stay in the game, but after 26.Re5 Kf8 27.Qf4+- White had too many attacking ideas, such as Be2-h5 or Rg3-f3. White had too many attacking ideas, such as Be2-h5 or Rg3-f3. ]

[If 24...Kc6 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net) 25.Rc3+ ( or *25.Rxd5 Qxd5 26.Bf3* )]

**25.Rxd5+ Kc7 26.Rc3+ Kb8** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



' **27.Rxb5+!** Black resigned.

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Sasikiran,Krishnan** **2684**
■ **Macieja,Bartlomiej** **2606**
Najdorf Memorial A (8) 09.08.2008
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Here Bartlomiej Macieja successfully defended the Vienna, which does not seem to be such an easy task recently. However, White could still have maintained some pressure with more precise play.
D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4** RR RR **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** A strong pair of Bishops. **10...Bd7**

[ 10...Nbd7 is interesting. 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 a6 ]

**11.Bxf6! gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? loses. 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6?* is the wrong capture. *13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** White has an edge. **13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qh5 Nc5** The most reliable continuation.

[After 15...Ke7?! 1.16/18 15...Nc5 0.33 16.f4 Black faced serious problems in the game Gustafsson - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2008. ]

**16.Rb4 Qe5 17.Qh4** Threatens to win with Nf3.

[The endgame after 17.Qxe5 fxe5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 0-0-0 is certainly drawish although White can still maintain a slight edge by 20.f4! exf4 21.Rc4+ Kb8 22.Rxf4⩲ Gulko - Salov, Linares 1990. ]

**17...Qg5**

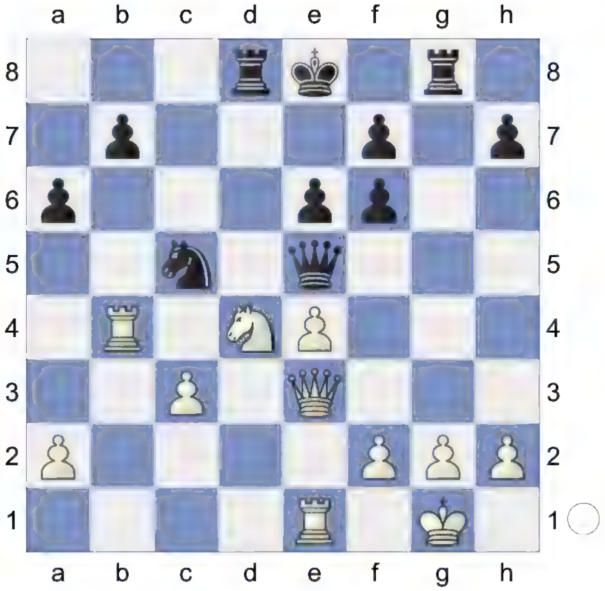
[ In the game Tkachiev - Balogh/World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk 2007 we have considered 17...Rd8!? 18.Nf3! Qxc3 19.e5! with the initiative although things were still not at all clear. ]

**18.Qh3** aiming for f4. **18...h5!?** A new continuation, which looks rather logical. 'N!' RR: 'N!' 'N!'

[After 18...Qe5 19.Re1 Rd8 20.Qe3 Prevents Qf4. Rg8 1.33/23 *( 20...0-0⩲* 0.55/22 *)*

(Diagram)

21.Nf3!⩲ Qc7 22.Rd4 Wards off Nd3 Nd7 23.Red1 Ke7 24.g3⩲ White kept a small but stable



advantage in the game Gelfand - Jakovenko, Moscow 2007. ]

[In case of 18...Rg8 Ü 106/(127) 19.g3! would still promise the better chances for White - see Khismatullin - P.H. Nielsen/ EU-ch Plovdiv 2008 for the details. ]

**19.f4** A natural but not the best continuation.

[ 19.Rc4! 0.07/26 19.f4 0.70 would have been a logical follow-up, swapping Black's important knight and maintaining a certain pressure after b6 20.Nb3↑ ]

**19...Qg4 20.Qe3** h3 is the strong threat. **20...Rg8 21.Rb2** Nf5! would now be deadly. **21...Rc8 22.Rd2** 0.32/19

[ ⌓22.h3 0.69/20 Qg7 23.c4 ]

**22...h4± 23.Nf3** This retreat does not promise much.

[ 23.Nb3!? seemed more to the point, exchanging Black's key knight, which defends the Q-side as well as preventing a possible invasion through the d-file: Qh5 ( both *23...Nxb3?! 24.axb3 Rd8* Dodges Qd4 *25.Rff2;* and *23...b6?!* 1.43/21 23...Nxb3 0.15 *24.Qd4 e5 25.fxe5 Qxe4 26.exf6±* were far from solving the problems*)* 24.e5!? ( *24.Kh1?!* was strongly met by *Nxb3 25.axb3 Rg3!;* while *24.Qd4 h3 25.g3* Black must now prevent Rfd1. *Nxb3 26.axb3 Qc5* should be drawish*)* 24...fxe5! 25.fxe5 Nxb3! 26.axb3± with better chances for White since Black's king will never be absolutely safe. ]

**23...h3 24.g3** -0.36/20

[ 24.e5= 0.02/20 ]

**24...Kf8!∓ 25.Rd4 Kg7** Black secured his king while his Q-side is well-protected. White often counts on his pawn pushes e4-e5 or f4-f5 but here they do not promise much. **26.Rfd1** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

[Other options, such as 26.e5 f5 27.Ng5 Inhibits Ne4. Rc7 do not pose real problems for Black. ]

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Kazhgaleyev,Murtas** **2620**
■ **Kulaots,Kaido** **2592**
Olympiad Men (7.1) 28.09.2010
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Murtas Kazhgaleyev came up with a fresh idea in this topical line and quickly achieved a tangible advantage. Black has to do some homework as White's approach might be promising... R. Scherbakov: 'Murtas Kazhgaleyev came up with a fresh idea in this topical line and quickly achieved a tangible advantage. Black has to do some homework as White's approach might be promising...' **1.d4** R. Scherbakov

**1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qf3!?** White has tried many moves with his queen but this one, which has never been popular, might be the most promising option. R. Scherbakov: 'White has tried many moves with his queen but this one, which has never been popular, might be the most promising option.'

**15...Rc8**

[ In the game Le Quang - Naiditsch, Dortmund 2010, Black preferred R. Scherbakov: 'In the game Le Quang - Naiditsch, Dortmund 2010, Black preferred' 15...0-0-0 but failed to solve the problems: 16.Rb4

**A)** 16...Ne5!? deserved attention: 17.Qxf6 Ng4! ( *17...Nd3 18.Rbb1 Qxc3 19.Qxf7! Rd7 20.Ne2!* secures an extra pawn for White) 18.Qh4 Qxc3 19.Nc6!? ( in case of *19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rb3 Qg7 21.Qg3! b5!* Black keeps drawing chances: R. Scherbakov: 'Black keeps drawing chances:' *22.h3 h5 23.a4 Qe5 24.hxg4 Qxg3 25.Rxg3 hxg4 26.axb5 axb5 27.Rxg4 Rd4* etc. ) 19...Qxc6 ( *19...bxc6? 20.Rb3 Qg7 21.Rfb1→* ) 20.Qxg4 Rd7!? ( *20...Kb8 21.Qg7↑* ) 21.Qg7 Rhd8 22.Qxh7 Qc2± and Black gets counter chances R. Scherbakov: 'and Black gets counter chances';

**B)** 16...Nc5 17.Rfb1↑ e5?!

**B1)** 18.Qxf6! was maybe stronger: exd4 19.cxd4 Nd7 (or *19...Ne6 20.Rxb7 Qxb7 21.Rxb7 Kxb7 22.Qxf7+ Nc7 23.d5+-* ) 20.Qh6! Nb8 21.d5 ( *21.Rc1 Nc6 22.d5 Nxb4 23.Qh3+ Kb8 24.Rxc7 Kxc7 25.Qc3+ Nc6 26.h4* ) 21...Rd6 22.Qh3+ Rd7 23.Qb3 with decisive attack;

**B2)** 18.Rc4! Rd6 19.Nb3 b6 and here White could have secured a huge advantage by R. Scherbakov: 'and here White could have secured a huge advantage by' 20.a4! Rhd8 ( *20...a5? 21.Nxc5 bxc5 22.Rb5+-* ) 21.g3 Rc6 22.a5 Nxb3 23.axb6! Qd7 24.Rxc6+ Qxc6 25.Rxb3 Kb7 26.Rb1 a5 27.c4 a4 28.Qa3 and so on. ]

**16.Rfd1 0-0** A new continuation.

[ In the game Kosic - Wittmann, Budapest 2008, Black played 16...b6!? and here White should have thought about 17.Qg4!? R. Scherbakov: 'planning to meet' (after *17.Ne2 Ke7 18.Rd4 Rhd8 19.h3 Ne5* Black was not so bad) planning to meet 17...Ke7? by 18.Nxe6! ]

**17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.Ng3** This natural and strong-looking manoeuvre may not be the best. R. Scherbakov: 'This natural and strong-looking manoeuvre may not be the best.'

[ 18.Rd4!? deserved serious attention. However, Black was not without counter chances: R. Scherbakov: 'deserved serious attention. However, Black was not without counter chances:' Kf8 19.Qh5 Ne5!

**A)** or 20.Qxh7 Ke7! 21.Rxd8 ( *21.Qh6 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qc2* ) 21...Rxd8 22.Qh6 b5 23.Qc1 Nd3 24.Qe3 Nc5 ( *24...Qc5?! 25.Rd1 Qxe3 26.fxe3* ) 25.Nd4 Na4 26.Rc1 Qc5 with idea ...b5-b4 with good counterplay R. Scherbakov: 'with idea ...b5-b4 with good counterplay';

**B)** 20.f4 Nd3 21.Qxh7 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qc2!? (after *22...b5 23.Rf1 Qc2 24.Ng3 Ke7 25.e5 f5 26.Qh4+ Kd7 27.Qf6* White is better ) 23.Qh8+ Ke7 24.Rxb7+

**B1)** in case of 24...Kd6? White has a very narrow path to a win: 25.e5+ Kd5 26.Rd7+ Ke4 27.Ng3+! ( *27.Qh7+? Ke3-+* ) 27...Ke3 28.Nf1+! Ke4 29.Qh4! Rg8 ( *29...f5? 30.Qg3* ) 30.f5+! Nf4 31.Qe1+ Qe2 ( *31...Ne2+? 32.Kf2* ) 32.Qxe2+ Nxe2+ 33.Kf2 Nxd4 34.fxe6 Nxe6 35.exf6+- with a technically winning endgame;

**B2)** 24...Rc7 25.Rxc7+ Qxc7 26.Qh3 Qc2 27.Qf3 Qb1+ 28.Qf1 Qxa2 and Black keeps good drawing chances thanks to his active pieces and passed a-pawn. R. Scherbakov: 'and Black keeps good drawing chances thanks to his active pieces and passed a-pawn.' ]

**18...Kf8 19.Nh5 Qe5?!** This move turns out to be a waste of time.

[The principled 19...Qxc3! was stronger: 20.Qxc3 ( in case of *20.Qf4* Black would play *Qe5! 21.Qh6+ Ke7 22.Rxb7 Rb8 23.Rxb8 Nxb8 24.Rf1 Nd7 25.Qxh7 Nc5 26.Ng3 Rd2* with active play; *20.Rd3 Qe5 21.Rbd1 Ke7* was also acceptable for Black) 20...Rxc3 21.Rxb7 Rcc8! 22.f3 Ne5 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Ra7 (or *24.Nxf6 Rd1+ 25.Kf2 Kg7* ) 24...Rd1+ 25.Kf2 Rd2+ 26.Kg3 Rxa2 27.Nxf6 Kg7 28.Ne8+ Kg6 29.Nd6± with somewhat the better chances for White thanks to his better pawn structure and the more active pieces. However, the ending is certainly drawish. R. Scherbakov: 'with somewhat the better chances for White thanks to his better pawn structure and the more active pieces. However, the ending is certainly drawish.' ]

**20.Rd4! Ke7 21.Rbd1 Rc7?** This passive move loses.

[ 21...Nc5 should have been played: 22.Nxf6 Rxd4 23.cxd4 Qxf6 24.Qa3± with advantage for White thanks to the weakness of the opponent's king. ]

**22.Qh3!** Suddenly Black is defenceless against a typical f2-f4 followed by e4-e5 or Qh3-h4 first. R. Scherbakov: 'Suddenly Black is defenceless against a typical f2-f4 followed by e4-e5 or Qh3-h4 first.' **22...Rdc8**

[ 22...Qa5 was insufficient: 23.c4 Rc5 24.g4! Rxh5 (otherwise White's pin along the d-file decides) 25.gxh5 Rg8+ 26.Kf1 Nc5 27.Qh4! Qc7 28.Rd6!+- ]

**23.f4 Qc5 24.Qh4**

[A prophylactic 24.Kh1!? was maybe not the most energetic, but perhaps the most reliable way: b5 ( *24...Rg8 25.e5! Rg6 26.f5!→* ) 25.e5! fxe5 26.Rxd7+! Rxd7 27.Qh4+ and White wins. ]

**24...Rg8 25.h3**

[ White had many good options: 25.e5!? Rg6 26.Kh1 Qxc3

**A)** or 27.exf6+ Kf8 ( *27...Nxf6 28.f5! exf5 29.Re1+* ) 28.f5! exf5 29.Nf4 and so on;

**B)** 27.f5 exf5 28.Nf4!+- ]

**25...Rg6 26.e5 Qxc3 27.f5!?** A thematic pawn push.

[However, both 27.Nxf6 Nxf6 28.Kh1+- ]

[and 27.exf6+ Kd8 28.f5! exf5 29.Nf4+- were winning without problems. R. Scherbakov: 'were winning without problems.' ]

**27...Qe3+ 28.Kh1 Rh6 29.Re4??** White was not in a hurry to finish Black off but suddenly he blunders, probably in time trouble. R. Scherbakov: 'White was not in a hurry to finish Black off but suddenly he blunders, probably in time trouble.'

[He was still winning after 29.Qg4 exf5 *(or 29...Nxe5 30.Qg8! )* 30.Qxf5 Nxe5 31.Nf4 ]

**29...Rxh5!** Now it is Black who is winning. **30.Qg4 Nxe5** Black prefers a safe approach. **31.Rxe5 Qxe5 32.Qxh5 Qxf5 33.Qh4 Qc5 34.Qxh7 Qc2 35.Qh5 Qc5**

[ 35...Qxa2!? ]

**36.Qh8 Rc8 37.Qh6 Qg5 38.Qh7 f5 39.Rb1 b5 40.Rd1 b4 41.g4 Qf6** White resigned.

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Salem,AR Saleh 2630**

■ **Cordoba Roa,Angel Gabriel 2312**

Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Early b..

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

Inf 78/(32) **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5**

[ 3...c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cxd5 exf4 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Rd1+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Rb8 14.b3 Rb4 15.g3 Ke7 16.Rd2 h5 17.Bg2 h4 18.0-0 (28) Georgiev,K (2677)-Topalov,V (2702) 78/(32) Sarajevo 2000 ]

**4.Nf3 dxc4N**

[ 4...c5 5.Bf4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nbd7 7.Qa4 Bc5 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Nxc5 Nxc5 10.Qa3 b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.e3 Qe7 13.Bg3 Rfd8 The Semi Tarrasch-5. ♗f4 5569 2021 ]

**5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 0-0 11.Qf4 Rb8**

**12.Qg4!?** 0.00/21 Leaves trodden paths. Verlässt die ausgetretenen Pfade.

[ 12.Nc3⩲ 0.44/23 ]

**12...Kh8** 0.43/20

[ 12...f5!= 0.00/21 was preferrable. 13.Qg3 f4 ]

**13.Qh5N** -0.13/21

[Vorgänger: 13.Nc3 -0.09/18 13.Rd1 0.55 f5! 14.Qf4 -0.40/22 *( 14.exf6= 0.00/23 Bxf6 15.Qg3 )* 14...Nb4 15.h4 h6 16.h5 -0.84/19 *( 16.Qg3= -0.25/20 )* 16...N4d5 0.00/24 *(*Black should try *16...Bb7∓* -0.84/19 White must now prevent ...Bxf3. *17.Qg3 Nc2 )* 17.Qg3= Nxc3 18.bxc3 Nd5 19.Bxc4 Hoping for Bd2. Nxc3 0-1 Maiorov,N (2495)-Abdrlauf,E (2338) Titled Tuesday intern op 16th Feb blitz 2021 (5) ]

[ 13.Rd1⩲ 0.43/20 ]

**13...f5** 0.33/21

[ 13...a6= -0.13/21 14.Nc3 Nxd4 ]

**14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Bf4?** -2.73/23

[ 15.Ng5= 0.24/22 Bxg5 16.Bxg5 ]

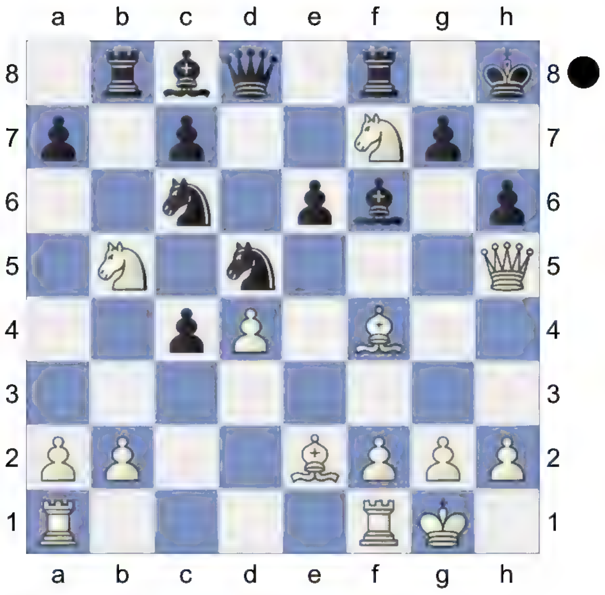
**15...Nd5!-+** Discovered Attack **16.Ng5 h6**

[ 16...Rxb5 17.Qxh7# ]

**17.Nf7+**

(Diagram)

**Rxf7! 18.Qxf7**



[ 18.Bg3 Qf8 ]

**18...Nxf4** Excellent horsemanship.

**19.Bxc4 Na5**

[ 19...Nxd4 20.Rfd1 e5 21.Rd2-+ ]

**20.b3 Nxc4 21.bxc4 a6** -2.63/20

[ ⌓21...Rb7 -4.68/22 22.g3 Ne2+ *( 22...c5? 23.Nd6-+ )* 23.Kg2 a6 *( 23...Bxd4? 24.Nxd4 Nxd4 25.Qg6-+ )*]

**22.Nxc7** -3.70/23

[ ⌓22.Qxc7 -2.63/20 Ne2+ *( 22...axb5 23.Qxb8 Ne2+ 24.Kh1+- )* 23.Kh1 ]

**22...Rb7 23.Qe8+ Qxe8 24.Nxe8 Bxd4 25.Rad1** -3.13/21

[ ⌓25.Nd6 -2.21/22 Rc7 26.Rad1 ]

**25...Rd7 26.Rfe1 Kg8 27.Nc7 Bb7** -1.61/19 Repels Nd5

[ ⌓27...e5 -3.21/18 28.Nd5 Nxd5 29.cxd5 Rxd5 ]

**28.g3?** -3.31/22

[ 28.Nd5 -1.61/19 was the only chance. Bxf2+ *( 28...exd5 29.Rxd4 Nh5 30.f3= )* 29.Kxf2 exd5 30.cxd5 ]

**28...Bxf2+** -1.62/17

[ ⌓28...Bf3 -3.31/22 29.Kf1 Bxd1 30.Rxd1 e5 *( 30...Rxc7? 31.Rxd4 Ng6 32.Rd6-+ )* 31.Nxa6 Ne6 ]

**29.Kxf2 Nh3+**

[Weaker is 29...Rxc7 30.gxf4 Rxc4 31.Rxe6± ]

**30.Ke3 Rxc7 31.Kd4** -2.82/21

[ 31.Rd8+ -1.79/21 might work better. Kh7 32.Rc1 ]

**31...Ng5** ...Nf3+ would now be deadly.

**32.Kc3 Bd5 33.Rc1 Rxc4+**

[Less strong is 33...Bxc4 34.Kb4 a5+ 35.Ka3-+ ]

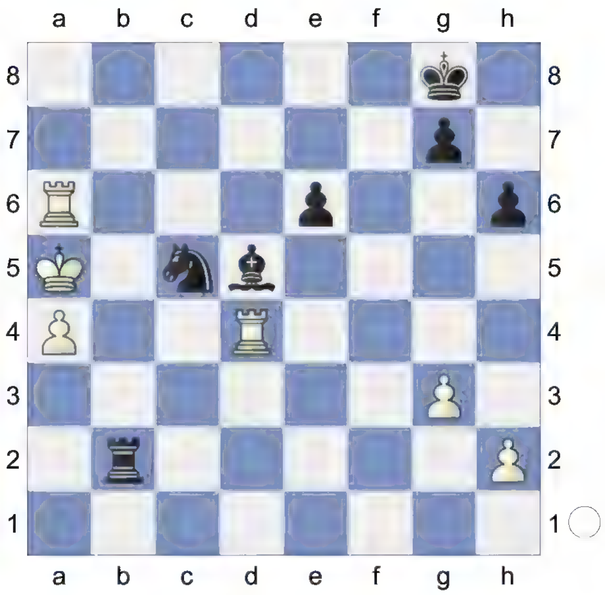
**34.Kb2 Rb4+ 35.Ka1 Ra4 36.Re2 Ne4 37.Rc7 Ra3 38.Rec2 Rf3 39.Kb2 Nf6 40.Ra7 Be4** -1.50/19

[ 40...Kh7-+ -3.06/20 and Black stays clearly on top. ...Kg6 is the strong threat. 41.Rxa6 Be4 ]

**41.Rd2?** -3.30/18 Loses the game.

[ 41.Rcc7∓ -1.50/19 was forced. ]

**41...Bd3 42.a4 Bc4 43.Rd4 Bd5 44.Rxa6 Rf2+ 45.Kc3 Ne4+ 46.Kb4 Rb2+ 47.Ka5 Nc5**



**48.Rb6 Nb3+ 49.Ka6 Nc5+**

[Not 49...Rxh2 50.Rxd5 exd5 51.Rxb3= ]

**50.Ka7 Rxh2 51.Rb5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.51/ Black=0.36. Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Gelfand,Boris** **2696**

■ **Topalov,Veselin** **2757**

Amber Blindfold rapid (9) 29.03.2005

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Veselin Topalov came up with an improvement upon the game Smirnov - V. Popov/ Aeroflot Open Moscow 2005 and managed to solve all the problems. We can conclude that if White does not move his queen to the Q-side Black should keep his king in the center, getting reasonable counter chances.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** A strong pair of Bishops. **10...Bd7 11.Bxf6! gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** White is slightly better. **13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qd2 h5!** One of Black's main problems in such a position is that his king's rook often lacks connection with the other forces while it has no real work on the K-side. Thus Black is trying to get his rook on h8 into action, meanwhile preventing a possible White queen's jump to h6.

[ 15...Rg8 is more complex. 16.Qh6 Ke7 17.Rfd1 Rac8 ]

**16.f4** -0.23/23

[ 16.h3± 0.40/22 ]

**16...Rc8** 0.36/19

[ 16...h4= -0.23/23 ]

**17.Rf3 b5 18.Re1 Nb6 19.Qf2 h4! 20.Rh3 Na4** This is the kind of position Black should try to achieve in this line - all his pieces are doing good work and White cannot think about attacking Black's centralized king. **21.Rxh4**

[ 21.Ree3 -0.85/19 21.Rxh4 -0.01 Qc4⇄ was also good for Black. ]

**21...Rg8!?**

[Actually an exchange 21...Rxh4!? was a good achievement for this black rook. After 22.Qxh4 Qxc3 Black had very good counterplay and perhaps White could already be satisfied with a draw after

A) 23.Nf3 Nc5 24.f5? -1.90/22 *( 24.h3= 0.00/21 and White stays safe. )* 24...Nd3⇄;

B) 23.Nxe6!? fxe6 24.Rd1! Prevents Qd4+. Qc5+ 25.Kh1 Qf8

26.Qh5+ Qf7! 27.Qh8+ Qf8 28.Qh5+! Qf7!= Perhaps Black thought it is already White's rook which is out of play?! ]

**22.Rh7** -0.50/26

[In case of 22.e5 -0.36/19 22.Rh7 0.00 Black could keep the center closed by f5 ]

[ 22.Rh3= 0.00/24 ]

**22...Qxc3** 0.00/19

[Better is 22...Qa7!∓ -0.50/26 23.Qd2 b4 ]

**23.e5=**

[ Again, White couldn't open the center as 23.f5 -1.20/20 23.e5 0.00 was met by e5 ]

**23...f5 24.Nf3?!** -0.58/22 Too ambitious.

[ 24.Nxf5! seemed stronger: exf5 25.e6 fxe6 ...Nc5 would now be deadly. 26.Qh4 and here Black had the only way to defend: ( *26.Rxe6+? Kf8-+* ) 26...Qd4+! 27.Kh1 Rg7 Prevents Qe7+. And now ...Kd7 would win. 28.Qh5+! ( *28.Rxe6+?* -2.56/18 28.Qh5+ 0.00 failed to *Kd7 29.Re7+ Kd6!* ( -> ...Rxh7) *30.Qh6+ Kc5-+* ) 28...Ke7! ( *28...Kd7??* 5.11/21 28...Ke7 0.00 *29.Rd1+-* ) 29.Qg5+ Kf7 30.Qh5+ Ke7 Hoping for ...Rxh7. ( *30...Kf8??* 11.51/17 30...Ke7 0.00 *31.Rh8+ Rg8 32.Qh6++-* ) 31.Qg5+= with a repetition of moves. ]

[ 24.Nxf5= 0.00/19 exf5 25.e6 ]

**24...Nc5∓** ...Nd3 is the strong threat.

**25.Rd1** -1.46/25

[ 25.Rf1!∓ -0.37/21 ]

**25...Ne4∓ 26.Qa7 Qc5+?!** 0.06/22 The endgame looks promising for Black, who is clearly better on the Q-side but White is able to find strong counter resources.

[ 26...Rc7! was stronger: 27.Qd4 -1.32/24 ( *27.Qb8+* did not bring the desired result since after *Ke7!* the rook on g8 was untouchable because of the quick checkmate; while *27.Qb6?* -5.64/26 27.Qd4 -1.47 was just losing to *Qc2!-+;* White should try *27.Qb8+-+* -1.70/24 *Ke7 28.Qb6* ) 27...Qxd4+∓ 28.Nxd4 Nc3∓ with reasonable winning chances. ]

[ 26...Qxf3 27.Qxf7# ]

[Black should play 26...Rc7!-+ -1.67/27 27.Qb8+ ( *27.Qa8+? Ke7-+* ) 27...Ke7 ( *27...Rc8? 28.Qa7-+* )]

**27.Qxc5= Rxc5 28.h4!** It is vital to give support to the rook on h7. **28...Rc2⇄** Black has counterplay **29.Ng5 b4**

[ 29...Rxa2 30.Rc1 Rd2 ( *30...Nxg5 31.fxg5 Rd2 32.Rc8+ Rd8 33.Rxd8+* Deflection *Kxd8 34.Rxf7+-* ) 31.Rc8+ ( *31.Rxf7? Rxg5 32.Rc8+ Kxf7-+* ) 31...Rd8 32.Rxd8+ Kxd8 33.Rxf7 ( *33.Nxf7+ Kc8=* ) 33...Nxg5 34.fxg5+- ]

**30.Rd4 a5**

[ 30...Rxa2? too greedy. 31.Rxb4 ( *31.Rxf7? Nxg5 32.hxg5 Kxf7-+* ) 31...Ra1+ 32.Kh2+- ]

**31.Kh2 Nxg5?** This exchange already leads to troubles for Black.

[The greedy 31...Rxa2? was also suspicious:. aiming for ...b3. 32.Rc4 Rd2 33.Rc8+ Rd8 34.Rxd8+ Kxd8 35.Rxf7↑ ]

[ 31...Rxa2!? 32.Rc4□ Rd2± ]

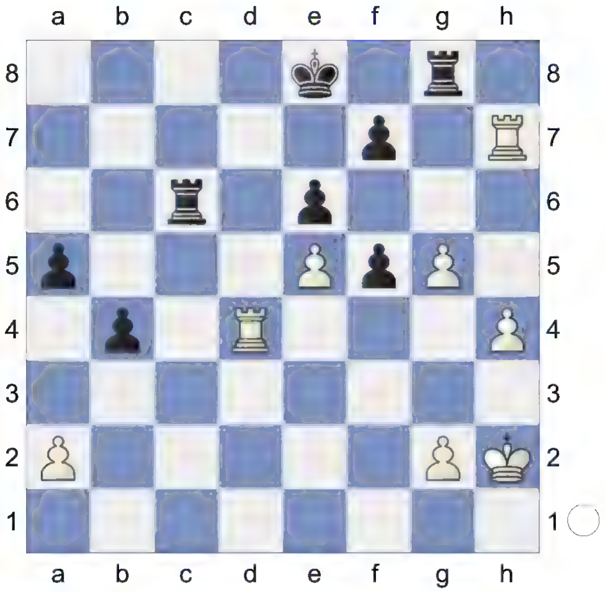
[and 31...Nc5 0.93/28 31...Nf2 0.00 32.Rd6!∞ were playable and probably drawish. ]

[ 31...Rxa2!? 32.Rc4□ Rd2= ( *32...Nxg5? 33.fxg5 Rd2 34.Rc8+ Rd8 35.Rxd8+* Deflection *Kxd8 36.Rxf7+-* )]

**32.fxg5** Endgame. KRR-KRR **32...Rc6**

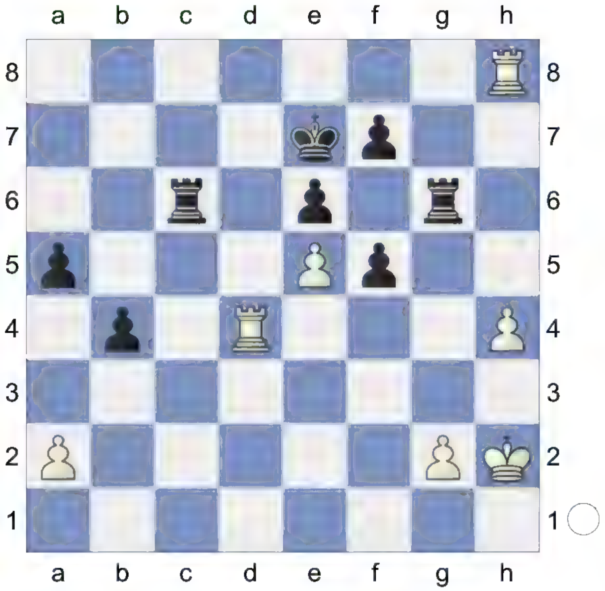
1.71/24

[ 32...Ke7± 0.39/23 ]

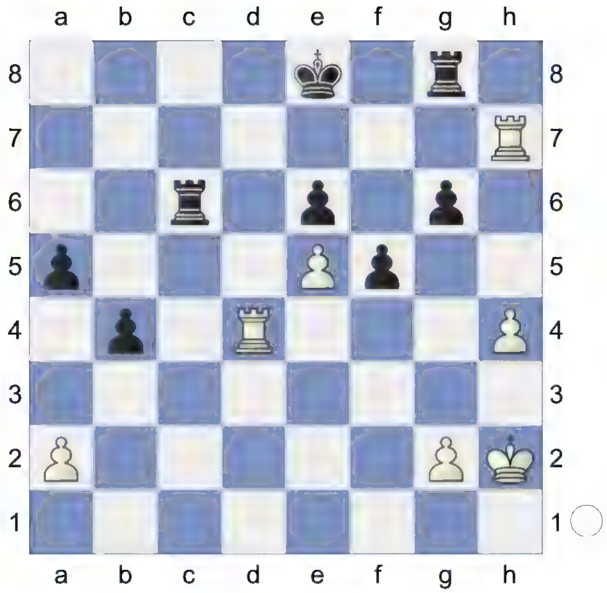


**33.g6!** 1.09/27 An excellent resource! Intending Rd8+! and mate. **33...fxg6±**

[ 33...Rxg6? 4.14/23 33...fxg6 1.21 wasn't better: 34.Rh8+! Ke7



Strongly threatening ...Rc5. 35.Rdd8! f6 36.h5 Rh6□ 37.Rxh6 Kxd8 38.exf6 2.31/16 ( *⌓38.Rh7* 4.12/27 ) 38...Ke8+- 39.Rh7+- and White wins. ]



**34.Rdd7?** 0.03/20 It was tempting to place both rooks to the 7th rank but, unfortunately for White, the rook on d7 is under control and it grants Black a narrow escape. White is more active.

[After the preliminary 34.Ra7!+- 0.25/19 34.g3 1.15 Black could hardly save this endgame. ]

[ 34.Kg3!± 1.39/22 ]

**34...Rh8!=** White must now prevent ...Rxh7. Deflection. The position is equal. **35.Rhe7+ Kf8 36.Rf7+ Ke8 37.g3** White has compensation. **37...g5 38.Rfe7+ Kf8 39.Rf7+ Ke8** A draw agreed. This blindfold rapid game is very important for the theory of this line.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.24 (precise) /Black=0.23 (precise)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Nyback,Tomi** **2639**

■ **Macieja,Bartlomiej** **2606**

Najdorf Memorial A (5) 06.08.2008

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Tomi Nyback successfully employed a rare approach in the Vienna, where White did not mind swapping queens very early, claiming a slight edge in the ending.. .

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.dxc5!?** A rather unusual method to counter the Vienna. It has never been popular but perhaps White can count on a small advantage here, too. **7...Qxd1+ 8.Rxd1 Nbd7 9.Bd2 Bxc5** Apart from this capture Black had a few other playable options. White must now prevent ...Ng4. The position is equal.

[ In the game Sakaev - Ionov, St. Petersburg 1992 Black preferred to capture with the knight: 9...Nxc5 10.Bxc4 a6 11.e5 Nfd7 12.a3 *( 12.Be2!?⩲ )* 12...Bxc3 13.Bxc3 b5 14.Be2 Bb7 15.0-0 Bd5 0.61/24 *( 15...Rc8=* 0.15/25 might be stronger. *)* 16.Nd2 0-0 17.Bd4 Rfc8 18.Rc1 Rab8 19.f3 Kf8 20.Kf2⩲ and White has achieved a small advantage ]

[ 9...Bxc3 is worth considering as well: 10.Bxc3 Nxe4 *(*or *10...Nxc5 11.Bxc4* next Ne5 is good for White. *Ncxe4 12.Bb4! Bd7* Threatens to win with ... b5. *13.Ne5↑ )* 11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bd4 Nexc5 13.Bxc4 Rxg2 with a complicated ending, in which White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn, Pleci -Kostic, Warsaw 1935. ]

**10.Bxc4 Ng4** A novelty.

[Black only tried 10...a6 but unsuccessfully. In the game Roktim - Vishnu, Chennai 2008 White came up with an interesting pawn sac: 11.e5!? *(*perhaps *11.Be2!? Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.a3 b5 14.Be3 Bb8 15.Nd4 Bb7* Dodges Nc6 *16.f3⩲* , which gave White a small advantage in Alekseev - Delchev, Crete 2007, is more promising*)* 11...Ng4 12.Ne4 Ngxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bc3 Nxc4 15.Bxg7 However, it seems that

Black could have achieved acceptable play by f5! ( *15...Bb4+? 1.66/22* 15…f5 0.10 *16.Ke2* was just bad for Black: *Rf8 17.Nf6+! Ke7 18.Nxh7!* etc. )

**A)** 16.Bxh8? -2.31/20 16.Nf6+ 0. 17 fxe4 is bad for White;

**B)** while 16.Nxc5!? Rg8 17.Bf6! Kf7 0.62/25 ( *17...b6= 0.03/23 18.Rd8+ Kf7 19.Rxg8 bxc5* ) 18.Bc3!⩲

**B1)** 18...Rxg2?! 1.16/22 18...b6 0.54 19.Rd8 Rg8?! 2.46/24 ( *19...f4± 1.32/23 20.Rh8 Rg4 21.Rxh7+ Kg8* ) 20.Rxg8+- Kxg8 21.Rg1+ Kf8 22.Rg7±;

**B2)** 18...b6 19.Nd3! Hoping for b3. Bb7 20.f3!⩲ would still promise a slight edge for White;

**C)** 16.Nxc5!? Rg8□ 17.Bc3⩱;

**D)** 16.Nf6+ Kf7 17.Bxh8

**D1)** after 17...Nxb2?! 18.Nd7! Nxd1 19.Nxc5 b6 20.Nb3 Black's knight is in trouble: Bb7! 21.Ba1 ( *21.Bd4 e5!* ) 21...Rd8! 22.Ke2 Bxg2 0.71/24 ( *22...f4!= 0.00/27 remains equal.* ) 23.Rg1!⩲ Bd5 24.Nd2 Dodges Bc4+ Nxf2 25.Kxf2 Bxa2 2.29/21 ( *25...Rc8± 1.10/22 was necessary.* ) 26.Nf3↑ with an annoying initiative;

**D2)** 17...e5!? 18.Nd7 Bd4 19.Rxd4 exd4 20.Ne5+ Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Be6 and Black should hold on without problems. ]

**11.0-0 a6** Against Nb5 **12.Be2 b5 13.Bf4** A logical but perhaps not the best decision.

[ 13.b4!? deserved attention: Bd6 ( *13...Bxb4? 2.41/23 13...Ba7 0.50 14.Nxb5!* ) 14.a4 bxa4 15.Nxa4 Rb8 1.17/21 ( *⌓15...0-0 0.71/21* ) 16.Rc1⩲ 0.50/21 followed by Na4-c5 with somewhat the better chances for White ( *16.Nd4!± 1.17/21 Bxh2+ 17.Kh1* )]

[ 13.Rc1!? was also worth considering: Bb7 14.h3 Ngf6 15.e5 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Ng5 Bd5 18.Bf3 Bxf3 19.Nxf3 with advantage since White takes control of the c-file: 0-0 ( *19...Ke7? 2.58/24 19...0-0 0.36 20.Rxc5! Nxc5 21.Bb4 Rhc8 22.Rc1* ) 20.Rc2⩲ followed by Rd1-c1. ]

[Finally, 13.h3!? Nge5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Rc1 was also somewhat better for White. ]

**13...Bb7 14.e5 Ra7!** With the idea to capture on f3 and then on e5. **15.Rde1! 0-0 16.Bd1** A slightly sophisticated retreat, which keeps White's rooks passive.

[The simple 16.h3 Nh6 17.Rd1 came to mind, still hoping for a slight edge. ]

**16...Rc8** 0.19/25

[An immediate 16...Nh6!? was even stronger, not being worried about 17.Bxh6?! gxh6 18.Ne4 Rd8 with comfortable play. ]

[ ⌓16...Nh6 -0.25/22 ]

**17.Ng5 Nh6** 0.21/23

[ ⌓17...h6 -0.15/24 18.Bxg4 hxg5 19.Bxg5 Ba8 ]

**18.Bb3 Nf8 19.Nce4 Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Ng6?!**

[ 20...Bd4! was more precise: 21.Nd6 Rd8 22.Be3 Bxe3 23.Rxe3 Ng4 24.Re4 Nxe5 Strongly threatening ...Nc6. 25.Nxb5 Nf3+ 26.gxf3 axb5 and Black was just fine. ]

**21.Nxc5** -0.20/19

[ 21.Bxh6!? gxh6 22.Nxc5 Rxc5

23.f4⩲ was slightly better for White but a draw was certainly the most likely result. ]

[ ⌓21.Bxh6 0.24/22 gxh6 22.Nxc5 Rxc5 23.f4 ]

**21...Nxf4= 22.Rd1 Kf8** Beginning a series of inaccurate moves.

[ 22...Nf5 23.g3 Ne2+ 24.Kg2 Nxe6! would now be deadly. Ned4 was good for Black. ]

[ 22...Ne2+ 23.Kh1 Kf8 24.Ne4 ]

**23.Ne4 Ng4?!** 0.39/23 After this dubious knight's jump White's advantage becomes tangible.

[ 23...a5 should have been played:. And now ...a4 would win. 24.a4 ( *24.Nd6 Rc5* ) 24...bxa4 25.Bxa4 Ng4 26.Rfe1 Ng6 27.Nd6 Rc5 and it seems that White did not have more than a repetition of moves by

**A)** 28.h3 N4xe5 29.f4! Nd7 30.f5 ( *30.Nb5!? Rb7□ 31.f5∓* Decoy ) 30...Nge5 was okay for Black;

**B)** 28.Ne4 Rc8 Inhibits Rd8+. 29.Nd6 Rc5= ]

[ 23...a5= -0.19/26 24.Nd6 Rc5 ]

**24.g3!⩲**

[ 24.Nd6 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Rc5∓ ]

**24...Ng6** Excellent horsemanship.

[ 24...Ne2+?! 25.Kg2 a5 ( *25...Nxe5? 26.Rfe1+-* Trapped Piece ) 26.Rfe1+- ]

**25.f4** Perhaps Black missed that his fork does not work. **25...Ne3! 26.Rc1 Rac7 27.Rxc7 Rxc7 28.Re1 Nf5** 0.73/21

[Or 28...Nd5! 29.Rd1 Nge7 30.Kf2⩲ ]

[ 28...Nd5!⩲ 0.36/24 ]

**29.Rd1± Ke7 30.Kf2** Better pieces and pawn structure determines White's certain advantage. **30...h5** 1.29/19

[ 30...Rc6⩲ 0.70/19 ]

**31.Nd6** 0.27/25

[ 31.Rd6!± 1.29/19 ]

**31...Nh6!=**

[Both 31...Rc6? 3.96/24 31...Nh6 0.25 32.Nxf5+ exf5 33.Rd6! ]

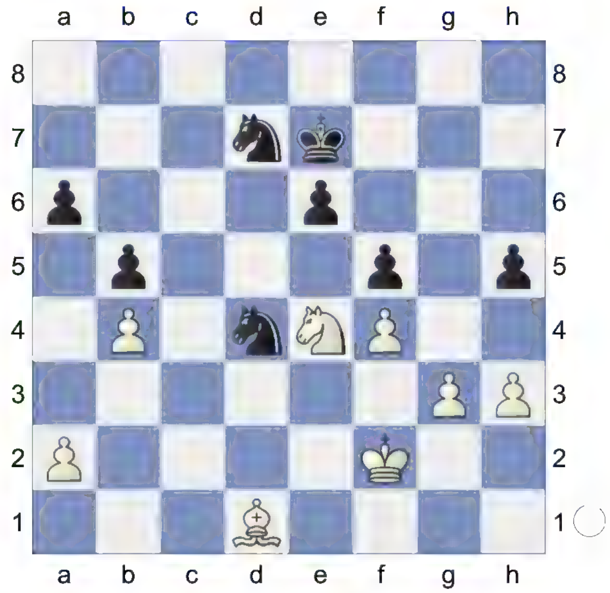
[and 31...Nf8?! 32.Nxf5+ exf5 33.Rd6 were unsatisfactory for Black. ]

**32.Rd2 f6 33.exf6+ gxf6 34.Ne4 Nf8 35.h3 Nf5 36.Rc2 Rxc2+**

[ Black should have kept the rook on the board by 36...Rd7 ]

**37.Bxc2** Endgame. Now Black has no counterplay at all while his advanced pawn on h5 is too vulnerable. KBN-KNN **37...h4?!** 2.17/25

[ 37...Nd7 seemed more tenacious. After 38.b4!? ( *38.Bd1 h4* ) 38...Nd4 39.Bd1 Black's life wasn't easy but he could count on counter chances after f5 1.60/24 ( *39...h4=* 0.11/26 )



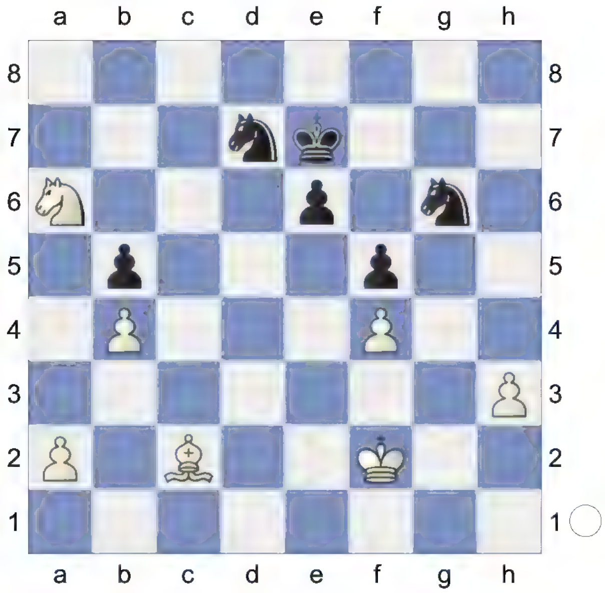
40.Nc5!± Nxd7 is the strong threat. Nxc5 1.77/28 ( *40...Nf6±* 1.18/22 ) 41.bxc5+- Nc6 42.Bxh5 0.98/19 ( *42.Ke3+-* 1.84/26 ) 42...Nb4 and so on. ]

[ 37...Nd7= 0.25/25 and Black has nothing to worry. ]

**38.gxh4+- Nd7** Against Nc5 **39.b4!?** 0.75/24

[ There was nothing wrong with

39.h5 ]
[ 39.h5+- 2.04/22 ]
**39...Nxh4** 1.38/25
[ ⌓39...Nd4 0.75/24 40.Bb3 Nb6 ]
**40.Nc5!± Nxc5** 5.92/33
[ 40...f5! was the only way to stay in the game: 41.Nxa6 1.08/26 ( White should try *41.Kg3 1.53/26 Ng6 42.Nxa6* ) 41...Ng6±



42.Kf3 0.94/24 ( *⌓42.Kg3! 1.54/26* ) 42...Kd6 etc. ]
[ 40...f5± 1.58/23 ]
**41.bxc5** KB-KN. White is clearly winning. **41...f5 42.Kg3 Ng6 43.h4** Now White is simply winning. **43...a5 44.h5 Nh8 45.Kh4 Nf7 46.Bd3 b4 47.Bb5 e5 48.fxe5 Nxe5 49.c6 Kd6 50.h6 f4 51.h7 Nf7 52.Kh5 a4 53.Bxa4 f3 54.Kg6 f2 55.Bb5!**
[ 55.Kxf7? loses. f1Q+ ( *55...f1R+? 56.Ke8+-* ) 56.Kg6 Qb1+ 57.Kg7 Qb2+ ( *57...Qxa2 58.h8Q=* ) 58.Kf7 Qh8-+ ( *58...Qxa2+? 59.Kg6-+* )]
**55...Kc5 56.Bf1** Black resigned.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.16 (very precise) /Black=0.33
[ Weaker is 56.Kxf7 Kxb5 57.h8Q f1Q+ 58.Ke7 Kxc6= ]
**1-0**

**D39**
☐ **Matlakov,Maxim** **2574**
■ **Landa,Konstantin** **2655**
RUS-ch Qualifier (2.14) 03.09.2009
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The transposition to the ending by 7. dxc5!? is supposed to be harmless for Black, but accurate play is still required - otherwise White's pieces might become powerful...
D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**
[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0
**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;
**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5

19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.dxc5!? Qxd1+ 8.Rxd1 Nbd7**

[An inclusion of 8...Bxc3+!? deserves serious attention as otherwise Black will not get the chance to damage his opponent's pawn structure: 9.bxc3 Nbd7

A) White had some other options but it was rather unclear how he could secure the better chances, for example: 10.Rd4 Nxc5 11.e5 Nd5 12.Bxc4 Ne7∞;

B) 10.e5 Ne4 11.Be3 Ndxc5∞ 0.00/25 (or even *11...Nxc3!?; 11...Nxc3∓* -0.42/23 *12.Rd6 Ne4* );

C) but perhaps it was at least more precise to include 10.Bxf6!? gxf6 ( *10...Nxf6* 0.17/23 10...gxf6 -0.45 *11.Rd4!±* ) 11.c6 bxc6 ( *11...Nb6!?* ) 12.Bxc4± with a slight edge;

D) 10.c6 bxc6 11.Nd2 Ba6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.f3 and perhaps in the game P.H.Nielsen - L'Ami, Solingen 2009, it was more accurate to play Ke7!? 14.Bxc4 Bb5 with equality. ]

[ 8...Nc6 9.Bd2 -0.23/25 ( *⌓9.Nd2* 0.22/19 ) 9...0-0 10.Bxc4 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Nxe4 12.Bb5± gave White a small advantage in the game Tregubov - Feller, Nancy 2009 ]

[ In the game Svetushkin - Naiditsch, Subotica 2008, Black played the simple 8...0-0 and after 9.Nd2 ( *9.Rd4!?; 9.e5!?* -0.32/22 9.Nd2 0.06 ) 9...Nbd7 10.f3 Nxc5 11.Nxc4 Na4 12.Bd2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.Nd6 Bc6 16.Be2 Rfd8 17.Kf2 Kf8 and Black solved his problems. However, White's play might have been improved. ]

**9.Bd2**

[ Konstantin Landa already experienced problems in this ending - after 9.Rd4!? h6 ( *9...Nxc5!?; 9...a5!?* ) 10.Bd2 Nxc5 11.Bxc4

A) 11...Bxc3!? 12.Bxc3 Nfxe4 1.33/21 ( *12...a5=* 0.00/23 ) 13.Bb4↑ 0.49/21 ( *13.Bb5+!±* 1.33/21 *Ke7 14.Bb4* );

B) 11...0-0 12.e5 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nd5 14.Bxd5 exd5 and here it deserved attention to simply capture the pawn by 15.Rxd5!? ( the game Riazantsev - Landa, Metz 2009, ended in a draw after *15.Bb4 b6 16.Bxc5 bxc5 17.Rxd5 Rb8 18.Rd2 Be6* ) 15...b6 16.Rd4 Ba6 17.Kd2± ]

**9...Bxc3** A principled choice. The position is equal.

[After 9...Bxc5 10.Bxc4 White keeps a small advantage, according to tournament practice. ]

**10.Bxc3 Nxe4**

[ 10...Nxc5!? was a natural alternative: 11.Bxc4 Ncxe4 12.Bb4! Bd7 13.Ne5↑ White would have seized the initiative, which more than compensated the sacrificed pawn. ]

**11.Bxg7**

[ 11.Bxc4? Nxc3 ( *11...Ndxc5 12.Bxg7 Rg8 13.Be5±* ) 12.bxc3 Nxc5-+ ]

**11...Rg8 12.Bd4 Ndxc5?** 0.74/22 This capture looks more natural but in fact it is a rather unsuccessful novelty.

[The approved 12...Nexc5 should have been preferred: 13.Bxc4 Rxg2 White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn in this complicated ending, but perhaps not more than that. 14.Ke2 (after *14.b4 Ne4* a draw was agreed in the game Brynell - Grandelius, Kungsor 2009) 14...a6 *( 14...b6!? )* 15.b4 Ne4 16.Rhg1 Rxg1 17.Rxg1 b5 and Black had acceptable play in the old game Pleci - Kostic, Warsaw 1935. ]

[ 12...Nexc5= 0.00/24 13.Bxc4 Rxg2 ]

**13.Ne5!↑** This knight's jump clarifies the drawbacks of the previous move. White is really pushing. **13...b6 14.f3 Nf6 15.Bxc4** 0.26/23 An ambitious and rather provocative approach.

[The simple 15.Nxc4 was good enough to secure a clear advantage. ]

[ 15.Kf2⩲ 0.65/23 should be considered. ]

**15...Rxg2?!** 1.45/22 A careless move.

[ 15...Ba6! was more reliable: 16.Kf2 Bxc4 17.Nxc4 Nd5 with a clearly worse, but defendable position. ]

[ 15...Ba6!= 0.26/23 keeps the balance. ]

**16.Bb5+**

[An immediate 16.Bxc5? 0.00/25 16.Bb5+ 1.69 was harmless for Black: bxc5 17.Bb5+ Ke7 18.Nc6+ Kf8 19.Rd8+ Kg7 ]

[but the preliminary 16.Bf1! might have been more precise:

**A)** or 16...Rc2 1.87/22 16...Rg5 1.41 17.Bb5+ Kf8 2.72/21 *( ⌓17...Ncd7 1.96/22 )* 18.Bxc5++- Rxc5 19.Rd8+ Ke7 20.Nc6+ Rxc6 21.Bxc6 Kxd8 22.Bxa8±;

**B)** 16...Rg5 17.f4! Rf5 18.Bxc5! bxc5 19.Bb5+ Ke7 20.Nc6+ Kf8 21.Rd8+ Ne8 22.Na5 Inhibits Bb7. Ba6! 23.Rxa8 Bxb5 24.Rxa7 Rxf4 25.b3± with reasonable winning chances. Dodges Ra4 ]

**16...Ncd7 17.Nc4?** 0.00/23 This rather unexpected retreat brings Black big relief.

[ 17.Kf1! could have secured a tangible advantage: Rg5 1.84/21 *( 17...Rc2± 0.97/19 )* 18.Bc6!+-

**A)** 18...Rb8 19.Nxd7! Nxd7 20.f4! Rf5? 3.27/23 *( 20...Rc5 1.73/23 21.Bxc5 bxc5 )* 21.Be5+- Rxe5 22.fxe5±;

**B)** 18...Rb8 1.80/25 might work better.;

**C)** 18...Ba6+ 2.20/29 19.Kf2+- Rc8 ...Rxe5! would now be deadly. 20.Nxd7! Nxd7 21.Be3 Rxc6 22.Bxg5± and so on. ]

[Better is 17.Kf1!+- 1.74/23 Rc2 18.Nxd7 Nxd7 *( 18...Bxd7? 19.Bd3+- )* 19.Bd3 ]

**17...Ke7=** Now Black is OK. **18.Bf2!** A clever manoeuvre - the bishop would be rather annoying on h4. This pair of bishops is nice. **18...Nh5?** 0.58/22 There was no need to be worry about the pin.

[The natural 18...Bb7 was quite good: 19.Bh4!

**A)** 19...Nc5!? 20.b4 Ba6∞ 1.46/23 *( 20...Bxf3⩲ 0.33/23 21.bxc5 Bxd1 )*;

**B)** 19...Nf8 20.Ne5

**B1)** after 20...Rxb2? 1.34/24 20...Rc8 0.00 21.a4! Black must now prevent 0-0. Rg2 *( 21...Rc8 22.Ng4 )* 22.Kf1 0.95/21 Black faced material losses *( ⌓22.Nd7 1.47/23 Rg6 23.Nxf6 Rxf6 24.Rc1 )*;

**B2)** 20...Rc8 21.Rf1!

**B2a)** 21...Rxb2 0.48/20 21...a6 0.00 was already not so clear: 22.a4! h5! Prevents Ng4. 23.Nd7! Rxb5! 24.Nxf6! 0.01/29 *( 24.Bxf6+ Ke8 25.Nxf8! Rb3! 26.Nh7*

*Bxf3=∞; 24.Bxf6+±* 0.72/30 *Ke8 25.Nxf8 )*

**B2a1)** 24...Rb3?? 3.12/23 24...Re5+ 0.14 25.Nd5+! Kd6 ( *25...Ke8??* #2/17 25...Kd7 2.89 *26.Nc7+! Rxc7 27.Rd8# )* 26.Nxb6++-;

**B2a2)** 24...Rbc5?! 25.Ne4+ f6 26.Bxf6+ Kf7 27.Nxc5 Rxc5 28.Bb2± 1.01/21 ( *⌓28.Bd4!* 1.48/23 *Rc4 29.a5 )*;

**B2a3)** 24...Re5+!= 25.Kf2 Ng6 26.Rd7+? 1.75/5 (perhaps *26.Ng4+!?* would be better from a practical point of view: *Nxh4 27.Nxe5 Bd5 28.Rc1 Rg8 29.Rg1* Prevents Rg2+ *Rxg1 30.Rxg1⩲* /= with a probable draw; *26.Nd7+=* 0.03/28 *Nxh4 27.Nxe5 Rc2+ 28.Kg3 Nf5+ 29.Kf4 )* 26...Kf8+- 27.Rxb7 Kg7! ( *27...Nxh4??* 4.70/23 27...Kg7 0.15 *28.Nd7+ )* 28.Nd7 ( *28.Bg3 Rc2+ 29.Kg1 Kxf6 30.Bxe5+ Nxe5 31.Rxa7 h4∞ )* 28...Rc2+! 29.Kg3 Ree2 ( -> ...Rg2+) 30.Bf6+ Kh6 31.Rg1 Wards off Rg2+ Rxh2∞ 32.Ne5 h4+ 33.Kg4 Rhg2+ 34.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 35.Kh3 Rg3+ 36.Kh2 Nxe5 37.Bxe5 Rxf3 38.Rxa7 Kg5∞ /=;

**B2b)** 21...a6! 22.Ng4 ( *22.Be2!? Bd5 23.Ng4 N8d7 24.Rf2 Rg1+ 25.Rf1 Rg2!= )* 22...axb5 23.Nxf6 Threatens to win with Nd5+. Ng6 24.Rd7+ Kf8 25.Bg5! Kg7! Repels Bh6+ 26.h4∞ with unclear play, in which Black's chances were at least not worse. ]

[ 18...Bb7= 0.00/23 19.Bh4 Nc5 ]

**19.Ne3** 0.00/21

[ 19.Bc6⩲ 0.58/22 Rb8 20.f4 ]

**19...Rg8**

[ 19...Rg5? 20.Bh4 h6 21.Bxg5+ hxg5 22.h4 gxh4 23.Rxh4+- ]

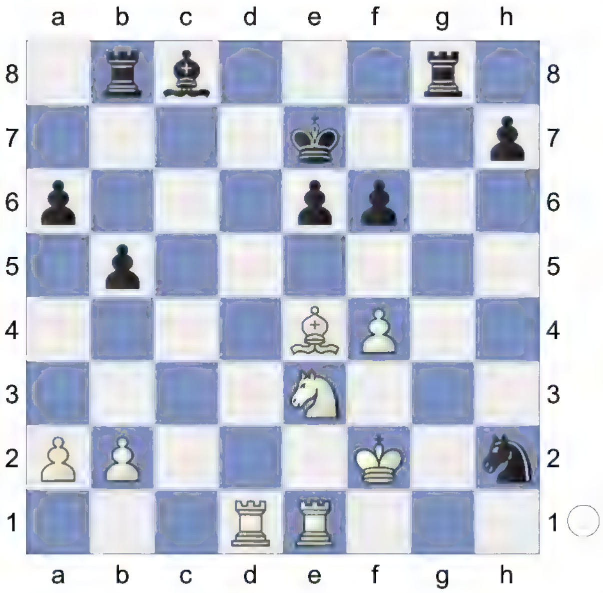
**20.Bh4+ f6 21.Kf2 Ne5! 22.Rhe1** White has already got all his pieces into play while Black has still failed to develop his Q-side which he could have easily done some moves earlier. Dancing on a razor blade. **22...a6?** 3.54/20

[ 22...Nf4 0.79/25 22...Bb7 0.00 could not solve the problems: 23.Bg3! ( *23.Nf5+* 0.04/19 23.Bg3 0.69 was less clear: *exf5 24.Rxe5+ Be6! 25.Rd7+ Kf8 26.Rxe6! Nxe6 27.Bc4 Re8 28.Bxf6 Rg6 29.Be5↑* with initiative) 23...Nh3+ 24.Kg2 a6 25.Ba4! Nf4+ 26.Kf1 Nfd3 1.42/26 (Black should play *26...Nh5* 0.84/19 )

**A)** 27.Re2 0.26/23 27.Bxe5 1.55 Nc5 28.Bc2 -0.04/23 ( *28.f4!⩲* 0.39/23 *Nxa4 29.fxe5 )* 28...a5= Hoping for ...Ba6. 29.f4 Ng4 And now ...Ba6 would win. 30.Nf5+ Kf7 31.Nd6+ Ke7 aiming for ... Ba6. 32.Nxc8+ Raxc8 33.Bxh7 Rgd8 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Kg2 Kf7⩲;

**B)** 27.Bxe5!± Nxe5 28.f4 b5 2.26/22 ( *28...Nf7±* 1.26/23 ) 29.Bc2!+- Nf3 2.81/25 ( *⌓29...Nf7* 1.82/20 ) 30.Be4!+- and White's position was overwhelming: Nxh2+ 31.Kf2 Rb8

(Diagram)



32.Nf5+! exf5 33.Bd5+ Kf8? 3.83/25 *( 33...Be6* 2.13/22 *34.Rxe6+ Kd7 35.Bb3+ Kc7 36.Re7+ Kc6 37.Bd5+ Kd6 38.Rxh7 Ng4+ 39.Kf3 Rge8 40.Be4+ Kc5 41.Rc1+ Kb4 42.Bxf5 Ne3 )* 34.Bxg8+- Ng4+ 35.Kg3 Kxg8 36.Rd8+ Kf7 37.Rc1+- ]

[ 22...Bb7 also looked dangerous for Black but perhaps it was the most stubborn defence. White had to do good work to prove his advantage: 23.Nc4! *( 23.Nf5+? Kf8!* was in Black's favour) 23...Nxf3! (but not *23...Nxc4? 24.Rd7+ Kf8 25.Rxb7↑ )*

**A)** the tempting 24.Rd7+?! actually promised nothing: Kf8

**A1)** in case of 25.Rxe6? -0.43/24 25.Rxb7 -0.06 Nxh4 26.Rxb7 Rg2+! Black's cavalry would become powerful: 27.Kf1! *( 27.Ke3?* -2.29/21 27.Kf1 -0.39 *Nf5+! 28.Ke4 Rg4+! 29.Kf3 Rg7!?∓ )* 27...Rxh2 28.Bc6 Prevents Nf3 Rd8↑ Repels Rd7;

**A2)** 25.Rxb7 Nxe1 26.Rxh7 *( 26.Rxh7!? Nd3+ 27.Ke3= )* 26...Nd3+ 27.Ke3 Ndf4 28.Kf3! Inhibits Ng2.

**A2a)** 28...Rd8!? 29.Ne5! Rg1 *( 29...Rg7!? 30.Rh8+□ Rg8= )* 30.Rh8+! Kg7 *( 30...Rg8!? 31.Rh7□ Rg1 32.Rh8+ Rg8 33.Rh7= )* 31.Rxd8 fxe5±;

**A2b)** 28...Rd8!? 29.Ne5□ Rg1 30.Rh8+ Kg7 31.Rxd8 fxe5±;

**A2c)** 28...Rg7 29.Rh8+ Rg8 30.Rh7=;

**B)** 24.Rd7+!? Kf8 25.Rxb7 *( 25.Rxe6 Nxh4 26.Rxb7 Rg2+ 27.Kf1 Rxh2∓ )* 25...Nxe1 *( 25...Nxh4 26.Rxh7 Nf4 27.Rxh4= )* 26.Rxh7 *( 26.Rxh7!? Nd3+ 27.Ke3= )* 26...Nd3+ Strongly threatening ...Rb7. 27.Ke3=;

**C)** 24.Rd7+!? Kf8 25.Rxb7 *( 25.Rxe6 Nxh4 26.Rxb7 Rg2+ 27.Kf1 Rd8∓ )* 25...Nxe1 *( 25...Nxh4 26.Rxh7 Nf4 27.Rxh4= )* 26.Rxh7 *( 26.Kxe1 Rg7∓ )* 26...Nd3+ 27.Ke3∓;

**D)** 24.Ne5!! White wants to mate with Rd7+. Threatening mate with Rd7+. 24...Nxe5 *( 24...Nxe1??* #5/13 24...Rg2+ -0.06 24...Rg2+ -0.10 *25.Rd7+ Kf8 26.Rf7# )* 25.Rxe5 Nf4! 26.Rd7+ Kf8 27.Bxf6

**D1)** 27...Rg2+ 28.Kf1 *( 28.Ke3!? Nd5+□ 29.Kf3± )* 28...Bf3 29.Rxh7 Kg8 Prevents Re3. Repels Re3 30.Rh6±;

**D2)** 27...Rg2+= 0.00/24 28.Ke3 Nd5+ 29.Kf3 Rg6;

**D3)** 27...a6!? 0.69/26

**D3a)** or 28.Rxb7 axb5

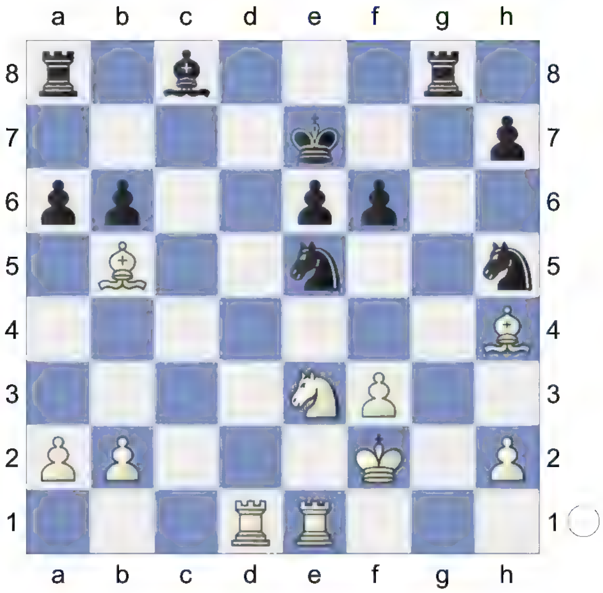
**D3a1)** 29.Kf3!? Nd5□ 30.Rxe6= *( 30.Bg5!? Rg6□ 31.Rxh7= )*;

**D3a2)** 29.Kf3!? Nd5□ 30.Rxe6=;

**D3a3)** 29.Rxb5 Nd5! 30.Bd4 Rxa2 31.Rxh7 Rg5;

**D3b)** 28.Bf1± Bg2! 29.Bxg2 Rxg2+ 30.Kf3 Rg6! 31.Bg5 Nd5! 32.Rxh7 Kg8 33.Rb7 Rf8+ and Black was fighting. ]

[ 22...Bb7= 0.01/24 ]

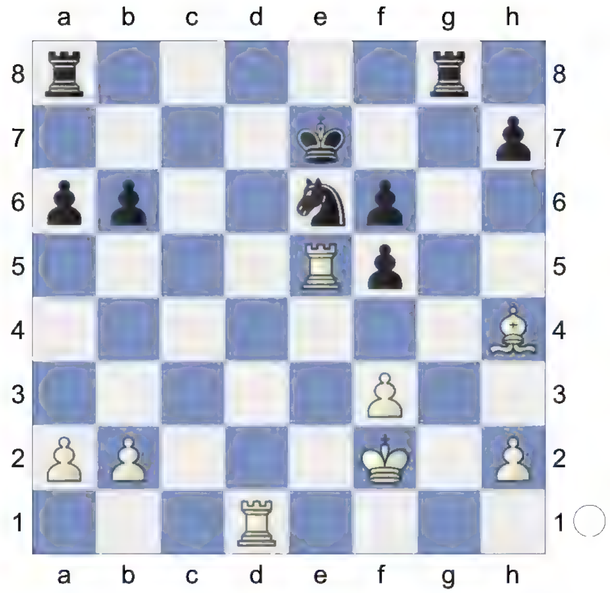


It is hard to believe Black did not feel the danger but somehow he missed this strong and rather transparent tactical shot. Black cannot hold the game after this. **23.Nf5+!+- Kf7**

[ 23...exf5? was just lost: 24.Rxe5+ Be6 *( 24...Kf8 25.Rd8+ Kg7 26.Re7+ )* 25.Bc4 Nf4 ...Rg2+ is the strong threat. 26.Bxe6 Nxe6

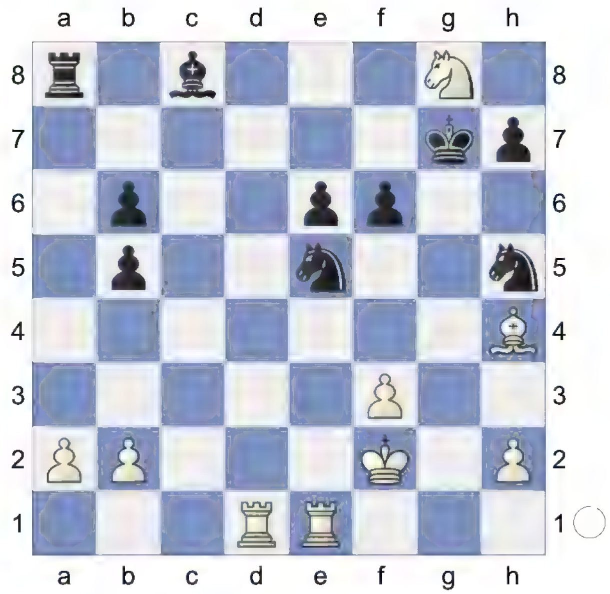
(Diagram)

27.Rde1!+- Yet the text move did offer



any chances to save the game... ]

**24.Nh6+ Kg7 25.Nxg8 axb5**



**26.Nxf6** Remove Defender **26...Nxf6 27.Rxe5 Nd5 28.Rg1+ Kf8 29.Reg5**

Black resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.44

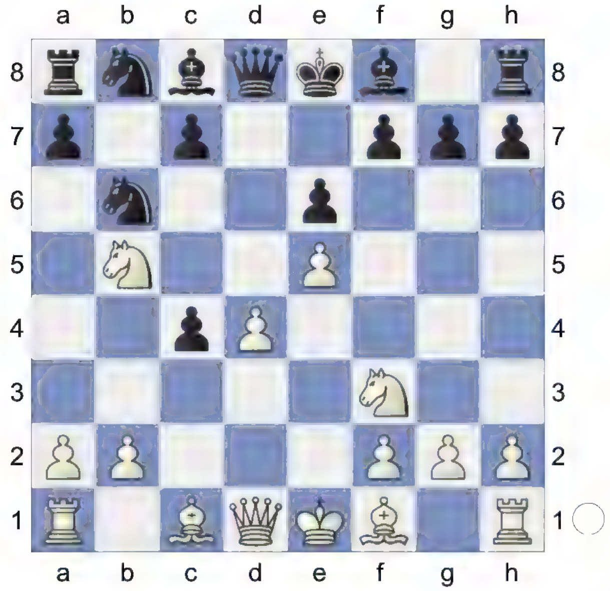
**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Erenberg,Ariel 2409**
■ **Anton Guijarro,David 2642**
Gibraltar Masters 17th (4.53) 25.01.2019
*[Kapnisis, S, MH]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6**



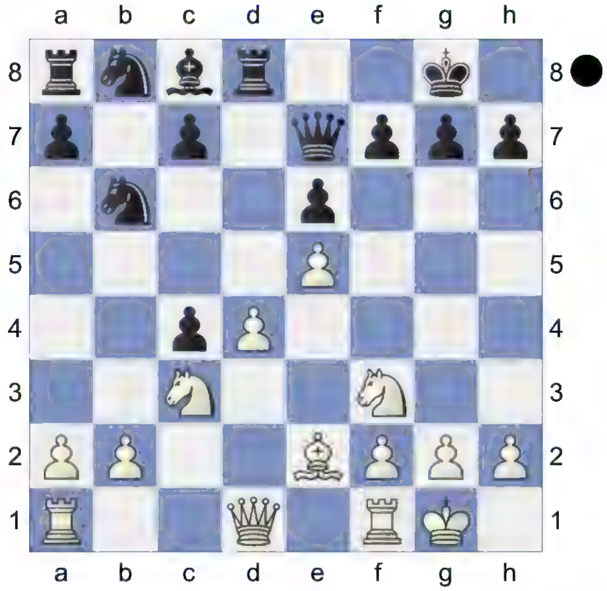
**8.Bg5** White is slightly better. Exchanging the bishop on g5 makes some sense since this bishop is restricted by d4 and e5 and it is difficult to use it actively. On the other hand White exchanges minor pieces which is not to his advantage since he has more space. As a result Black gets the e7-square for his knight. Black doesn't face any problems in this line.

[ 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.a3 Rb8 11.Qc2 Qd7 12.Nc3 Bb7 13.Rd1 Na5 14.h4 Bc6 15.Rh3 Ba4 16.Nxa4 Qxa4 17.Qc1 Nb3 18.Qc3 Nd5 19.Qc2 Ojasuo,A (2671)-4.♘f3 ♘bd7 5.♗g5 c6 393 (2539) TCh-RUS Sochi RUS 2005 ]

**8...Be7**

[ 8...Qd7 can be tried although there is no reason to avoid the exchange of the bishops. ]

**9.Qd2**



[ 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.Nc3 -0.27/20 ( *10.Na3* -0.10/21 10.Qd2 0.30 *c3!; 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Be2! 0-0∞; ⌓10.Qd2* 0.25/22 ) 10...0-0= 11.Be2 Rd8 Hoping for ...c5. 12.Qc2 ( *12.0-0?* -0.82/20 12.Qc1 -0.28 *c5!∓* ) 12...Bb7 Dodges Qe4 13.0-0 Nc6 ( *13...Na6!?; 13...N8d7!?* ) 14.Rad1 -0.67/24 ( *14.Qe4* -0.31/21 is more appropriate.) 14...Nb4∓ 15.Qc1 Rab8⇄ 0-1 (33) Sammalvuo, T (2414)-Grandelius,N (2656) Puhajarve EST 2017 ]

**9...0-0N**

[ 9...Nc6 10.Rc1

**A)** 10...Ba6?! Black tries to defend against the threat of ♗xc4 in the wrong way. 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.a4! Nxa4?! 13.Bxc4⩲ Rb8? 1.50/22 (Black should try *13...0-0!⩲* 0.38/22 ) 14.b3± Nc5 2.79/22 ( *14...Nb6 15.Nd6+ cxd6 16.Bxa6±; 14...Nb6±* 1.52/23 ) 15.Nd6+!+- cxd6 16.dxc5+- 1-0 (27) Stupak,K

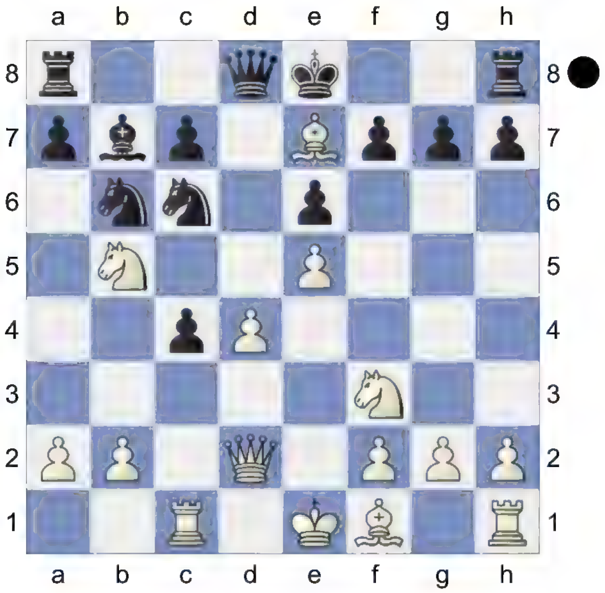
(2542)-Cornette,M (2593) Rochefort FRA 2017;

**B)** 10...Bb7

**B1)** 11.Bxc4 Black must now prevent Bd3. a6! 12.Bxe7 Forced! ( *12.Na3* -0.97/22 12.Bxe7 -0.28 *Nxd4!∓* ) 12...Nxe7 13.Na3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Nxc4 15.Nxc4 Qd5≌ ( *15...Nf5!?; 15...0-0* );

**B2)** 11.Be2 Bxg5 12.Qxg5 Qxg5 13.Nxg5 0-0 14.Bxc4 Rab8 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7;

**B3)** 11.Bxe7



Nxe7! 12.Be2

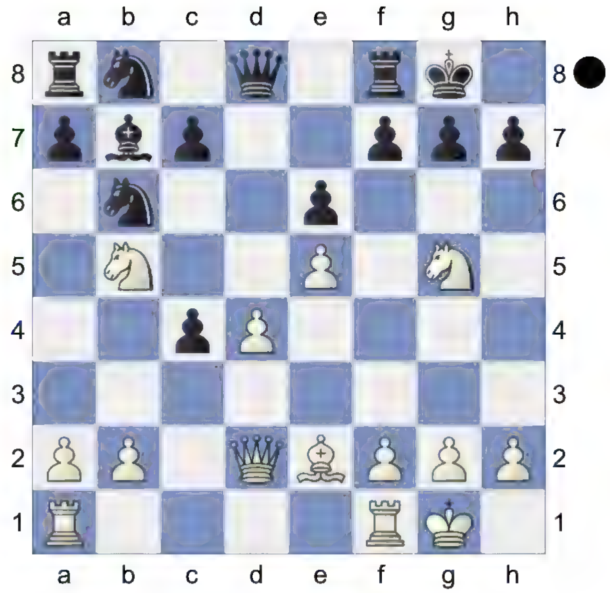
**B3a)** 12...0-0 13.0-0 -0.29/21 ( *⌓13.Na3* 0.08/22 ) 13...Nf5∞;

**B3b)** 12...Nf5 13.Qb4 Qe7∞ ]

**10.Rc1** -0.10/24

[ 10.Be2 -0.09/22 10.h4 0.29 Bb7 0.28/22 ( *10...Bxg5* -0.09/22 feels stronger. *11.Nxg5 Bb7* ) 11.0-0 -0.10/24 ( *11.Bxe7* 0.28/22 is superior. *Qxe7 12.0-0* ) 11...Bxg5= 12.Nxg5

(Diagram)



h6! Black correctly kicks the knight away from g5, now that it can't go to e4. 13.Nf3

**A)** 13...N8d7?! 14.Rac1 Rb8 15.Rfd1 a6 0.80/22 ( *15...Qe7=* 0.26/22 ) 16.Na3± Bd5 17.Nxc4± 1-0 (36) Sarana,A (2618)-Yu Yangyi (2764) St Petersburg RUS 2018;

**B)** 13...Qd7!? 14.Na3 Bd5∞ ( *14...Bxf3 15.Bxf3 Nc6 16.Rfd1 Rad8 17.Bxc6 Qxc6 18.Rac1 Rd5!?∞* )]

[ 10.Bxe7 0.26/23 deserves consideration. Qxe7 11.Be2 ]

**10...Bxg5**

[ 10...Bb7!? ]

**11.Nxg5 Bb7 12.Be2**

[ 12.Bxc4 Nxc4 13.Rxc4 Ba6∓ ]

**12...Nc6**

[ 12...Qe7!? ]

[ 12...Qd7!? ]

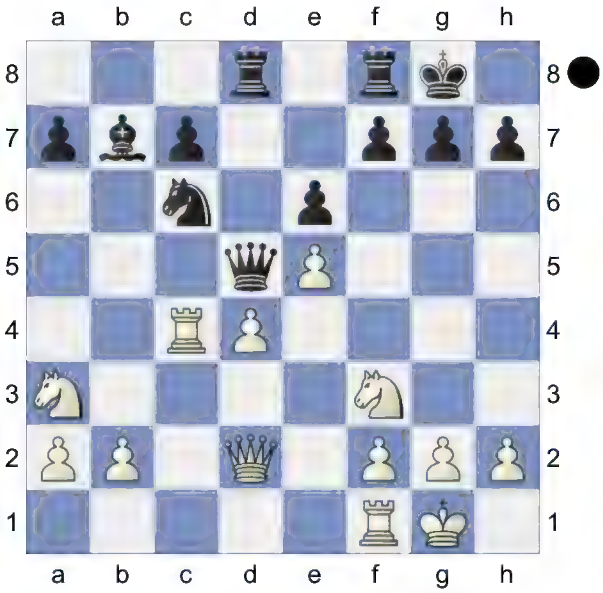
[ 12...Bxg2?? 2.30/17 12...Nc6 -0.13 13.Rg1 Bd5 3.73/19 ( *⌓13...a6* 2.54/19 ) 14.Rc3!+- Black is getting mated. ]

**13.Bf3?!** -0.82/22

[ 13.Nf3

**A)** 13...Qd7 14.0-0 Rad8

**A1)** 15.Bxc4? -1.21/25 15.Na3 -0.09 Nxc4 16.Rxc4 Qd5 17.Na3 ( *17.Rc5 Qxc5 18.dxc5 Rxd2 19.Nxd2 Ba6 20.a4 Rb8∓* )



17...Ba6!∓;

**A2)** 15.Rfd1 Ne7⇄;

**B)** 13...Qe7 Inhibits Na3. Black has a number of ways to create counterplay against the pawn on d4. 14.0-0 Rfd8 15.Bxc4 a6 aiming for ...Nxc4! 16.Na3 Nxd4 ( *16...Nb4!?* ) 17.Nxd4 Strongly threatening Qf4. c5∞ ]

[ 13.Bxc4 Nxc4 14.Rxc4 Qd5∓ ]

[ 13.Nf3!= -0.18/23 remains equal. ]

(Diagram)

**13...Rb8!∓ 14.Ne4?** -2.29/18

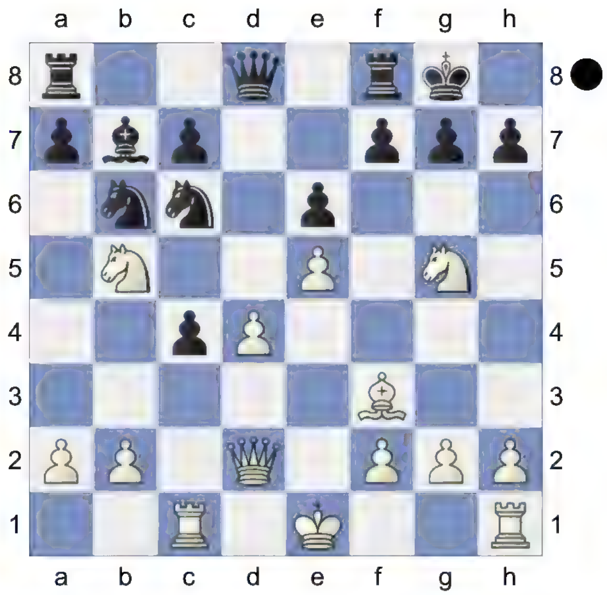
[ 14.Rd1 Qe7 Threatens to win with ...h6. 15.0-0 Rfd8∓ ]

[ 14.Rd1∓ -0.75/23 ]

**14...a6-+ 15.Nc5 axb5 16.Nxb7 Qd7**

[ 16...Rxb7 17.Bxc6 Rb8 18.0-0± ]

**17.Nc5 Qxd4** Black didn't face serious



resistance in the rest of the game. **18.Qxd4 Nxd4 19.Be4 f5 20.exf6 gxf6**

[But not 20...Rxf6 21.b3∓ ]

**21.Rd1 e5** And now ...f5 would win. **22.f4 Rbd8 23.fxe5 fxe5 24.Rf1 Rxf1+ 25.Kxf1 h6 26.Kf2** -2.28/22

[ 26.Ke1∓ -1.59/20 ]

**26...Kf7 27.b3 Ke7 28.Rc1** -3.12/22

[ 28.bxc4 -1.81/17 was called for. Rf8+ ( *28...Nxc4? 29.Rd3-+; 28...bxc4? 29.Rb1-+* ) 29.Ke1 Nxc4 ( *29...bxc4 30.Rb1∓* ) 30.Rc1 ]

**28...c6 29.g3 Rf8+**

[Don't do 29...Ra8 30.Bb1-+ ]

**30.Kg2 Ra8** Deflection **31.a4** -4.89/20

[ 31.Bb1 -3.15/19 might work better. ]

**31...cxb3** Black is clearly winning.

[ 31...bxa4 32.Bxc6 Rc8 ( *32...Nxc6 33.Nxa4 Nd5 34.bxc4-+* ) 33.Nxa4 Rxc6 34.Nxb6 Rxb6 35.bxc4 ]

**32.Nxb3 Nxb3** Excellent horsemanship. **33.Rxc6 Nxa4**

[ 33...Rxa4 34.Rxb6 Rxe4 35.Rxb5-+ ]

**34.Rc7+ Kd6 35.Rc6+ Kd7 36.Rxh6 Rb8 37.h4 Nd4 38.h5 Nc5 39.Bb1 e4 40.Rg6 Rh8 41.h6 Nde6 42.Kf2 Ke7**

...Kd6 is the strong threat. **43.Ba2 Kf7 44.Rg7+** -6.80/21

[ ⌓44.Rg5 -4.24/19 Kf6 45.Rh5 ]

**44...Kf6 45.Bxe6 Rxh6** White got outplayed after the opening.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.39/ Black=0.06 (flawless)

**0-1**

**D24**

☐ **Salem,AR Saleh** **2630**
■ **Xie,Bryan** **2279**
Titled Tuesday intern op 09th Jan Early b..
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e4 a6** 0.77/24

[ 5...Bb4⩲ 0.39/21 ]

**6.Bxc4N**

[ 6.a4 c5 7.d5 exd5 8.exd5 Bd6 9.Bxc4 Qe7+ 10.Be2 b6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.Re1 Qd8 14.Ne4 Qc7 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Bc4 Bb7 17.Qd2 Rfe8 18.Bf4 Qf8 19.h3 1-0 9. ♗e3 ♗c5 10. ♕e2 0-0 (1951)-Mukhin,E (1683) SU ch Baku 1961 (5. 21) ]

[ 6.e5 Nd5 7.Bxc4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.0-0 c5 11.Ng5 Be7 12.Qh5 Quickstarter Guide-Quickstarter Queen'S Gambit ]

**6...b5 7.Bd3 Bb7** **8.0-0!?** White is better. A promising side line. Eine vielversprechende Nebenvariante.

**8...Nbd7 9.e5 Nd5 10.a4** 0.70/18

[White should play 10.Nxd5± 1.20/20 Strongly threatening Bg5. Bxd5 11.Ng5 ]

**10...b4** 1.16/23

[ 10...Be7⩲ 0.70/18 ]

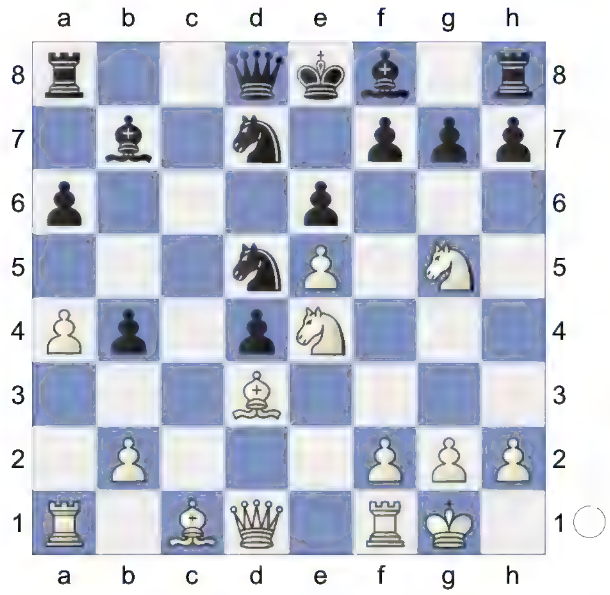
**11.Ne4 c5N** 1.80/22

[Vorgänger: 11...h6 12.Nfd2 Nf4 13.Bc2 Nb6 2.02/22 *( 13...Ng6± 0.92/19 )* 14.Qf3+- Nbd5 15.Nb3 g5? 4.36/21 *( 15...Ng6 2.01/18* was worth a try. *16.Nec5 Bc8 )* 16.Na5 Qc8 17.Nxb7 Qxb7 18.Bxf4 gxf4 19.Nf6+ Kd8 20.Nxd5 exd5 21.Qxf4 Qf6+ is the strong threat. c6 6.73/19 *( ⌓21...Be7 4.51/19 22.Qxf7 c6 )* 22.Qf6+ 1-0 Obodchuk,A (2438)-Prassas,G (2046) Aegean op 28th 2005 (2) ]

[ 11...h6± 1.02/21 is a better defense. ]

**12.Nfg5+-** And now Qh5 would win.

**12...cxd4**

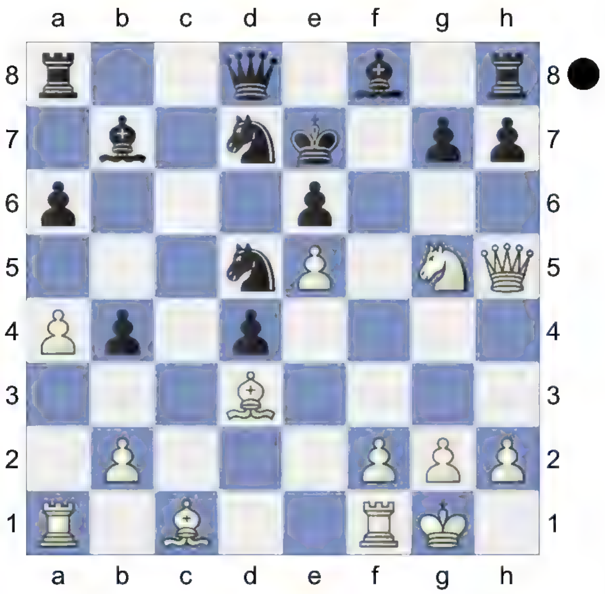


**13.Nxf7** Decoy **13...Kxf7 14.Ng5+→** Black is in trouble. **14...Ke7 15.Qh5?** -2.60/18

[ 15.Nxh7? Nxe5 16.Be4 Rxh7 17.Bg5+ Nf6 18.Bxb7 Ra7-+ ]

[ 15.Bxh7 Qe8 *( 15...Nxe5 16.Qxd4 Qd6 17.Re1∓; 15...Rxh7 16.Nxh7 Nxe5 17.Qxd4= )* 16.h4 *( 16.Qxd4? Qh5-+ )* 16...Nc5∓ *( 16...Nxe5 17.Qxd4 Rxh7 18.Nxh7=; 16...Rxh7 17.Nxh7 Nxe5 18.Qxd4= )*]

[ 15.Nxe6!± 1.01/20 Qb6 ( *15...Kxe6 16.Qg4+ Kf7 17.e6+ Ke8 18.exd7+ Qxd7 19.Re1+ Ne7 20.Bf5=* ) 16.Bf5 ]



White is more active. **15...Qe8-+**

[ 15...Nxe5 16.f4 Nd7 ( *16...Nxd3 17.Qf7+* Skewer, Double Attack *Kd6 18.Qxb7∓* ) 17.Bc4∓ ( *17.Nxh7? Nc5-+; 17.Bxh7? Qe8-+; 17.Qf7+? Kd6-+* )]

**16.Qh3 Nxe5??** 3.55/23

[ 16...Nc5-+ -2.46/18 avoids the disaster. Threatens to win with ...Nxd3! 17.Be2 Kd7 ( *17...Nxa4?* too greedy. *18.Qxe6+ Kd8 19.Qxe8+* Remove Defender *Kxe8 20.Rxa4+-* )]

(Diagram)

**17.Re1!+-**

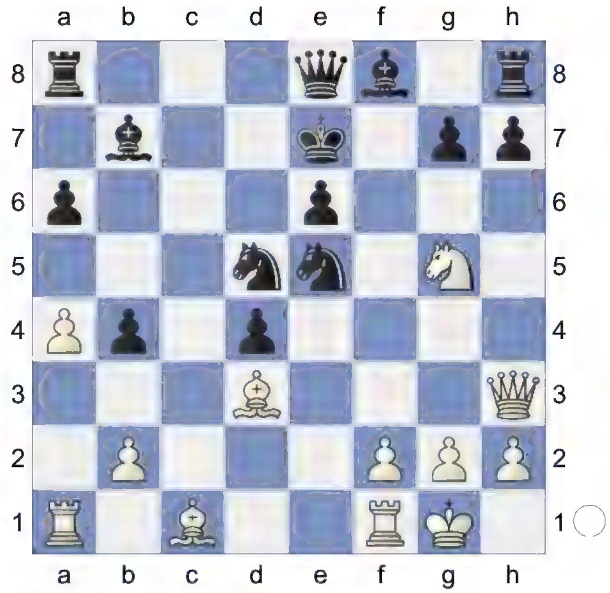
[ 17.Nxh7? loses. Nxd3 18.Bg5+ Kf7 19.Qxd3 Bd6 20.Qxd4 Rxh7-+ ]

[ 17.Qxe6+ Kd8± ]

**17...Kd6 18.Qg3**

[Not 18.Bxh7 Rxh7 19.Qxh7 Bc8± ]

**18...Kc7** 5.45/19



[ 18...Kd7 3.55/19 was necessary. ]

**19.Qxe5+** White is clearly winning. **19...Bd6 20.Nxe6+ Kc6 21.Nxd4+ Kd7 22.Qf5+** Deflection **22...Kc7 23.Rxe8 Raxe8 24.Bd2**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.38/Black=0.64

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Yilmaz,Mustafa** **2633**

■ **Saraci,Nderim** **2408**

43rd Olympiad 2018 Open (2.1) 25.09.18

*[TA]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Bxc4 c5 9.e5** D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4 **9...Qd8 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Ne4** LiveBook: 30 Games. The position is equal. **11...Nc6**

[ 11...0-0 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Bd3 Nd7 15.Rc1 Qa5 16.g4 Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5 0-1 (37) Aronian, L (2794)-Caruana,F (2784) Berlin 2018 ]

**12.Qe2 Bd7N**

[Predecessor: 12...0-0 13.Rfd1 Qc7 14.a3 Be7 15.Ng3 Rd8 16.Rac1 Bg5 17.Nxg5 hxg5 1-0 (43) David,A (2608)-Petkov,V (2490) Gif sur Yvette 2010 ]

**13.Rfd1 Qb6 14.a3 Be7 15.b4 0-0-0**

[ 15...a6= ]

**16.Rac1**

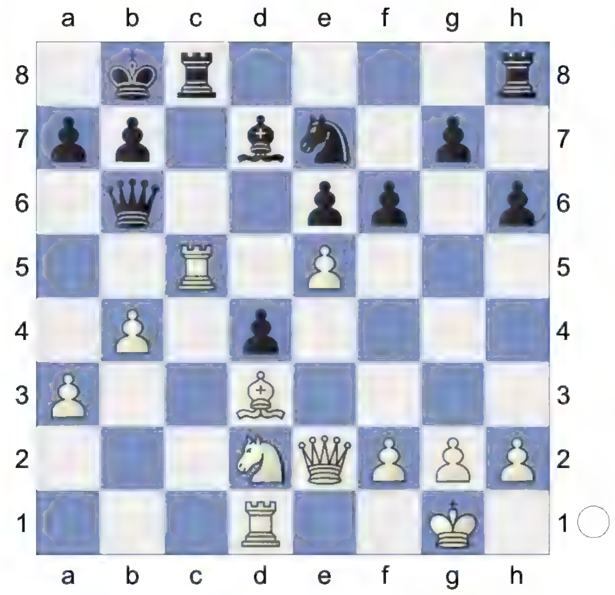
[Better is 16.b5± Na5 17.Rxd4 ( *17.Nxd4 Kb8=* )]

**16...Kb8= 17.Bd3 f6 18.Nc5 Bxc5 19.Rxc5 Ne7 20.Nd2**

[ 20.Rdc1± ]

**20...Rc8**

[ 20...Bc6= ]



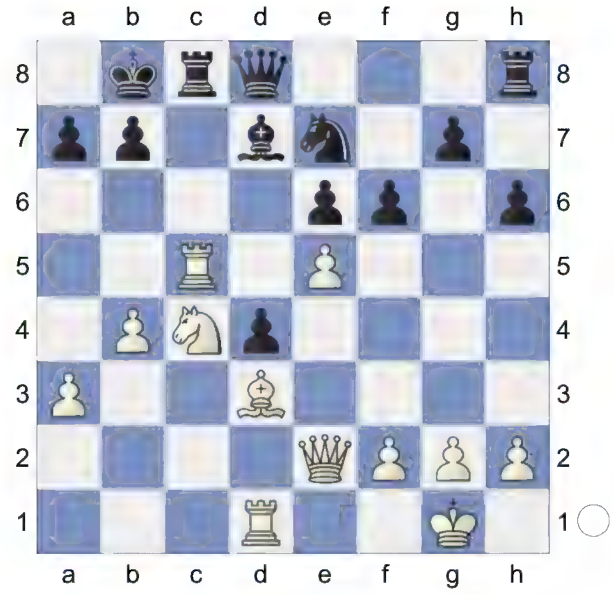
**21.Nc4!± Qd8**

(Diagram)

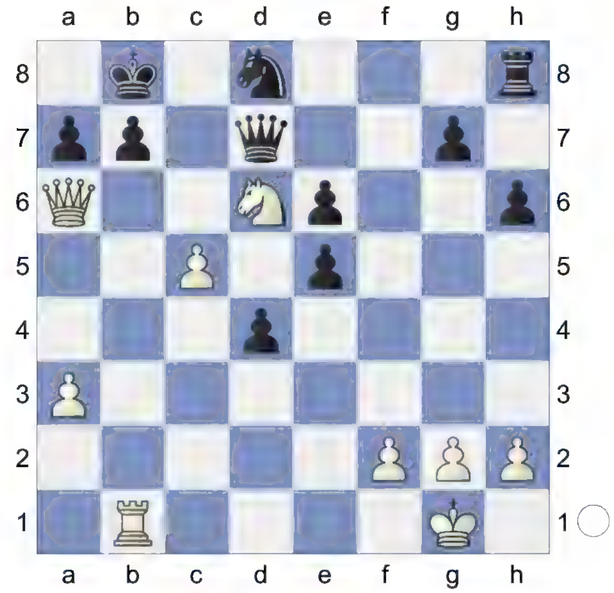
**22.Nd6! Rxc5 23.bxc5** Threatens to win with Be4. **23...Bc6 24.Be4** And now Nf7 would win. **24...Qd7 25.Bxc6 Nxc6 26.Rb1↑** White has strong initiative. **26...fxe5?**

[ 26...Nd8± might work better. ]

**27.Qa6+- Nd8**



[ ⌓27...b6 28.cxb6 Ka8 29.bxa7 Na5 ]



**28.Nxb7!** White is clearly winning. **28...Qxb7**

[ 28...Nxb7 29.c6 ]

**29.Rxb7+ Nxb7 30.Qxe6** Precision: White = 74%, Black = 31%.

**1-0**

**D39**
☐ **Tkachiev,Vladislav** **2661**
■ **Balogh,Csaba** **2561**
(m/2) 101/(335) 2007
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

White recently posed Black some problems in this famous line of the Vienna. Here Csaba Balogh came up with a slight innovation but still collapsed. However, his approach deserves further investigation...

White recently posed Black some problems in this famous line of the Vienna. Here Csaba Balogh came up with a slight innovation but still collapsed. However, his approach deserves further investigation...

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** This pair of bishops is nice.

[ 10.Nb5 looks sharper. Nxe4 11.Qd4 0-0 12.Qxe4 a6 13.Bd3 ]

**10...Bd7**

[ 10...Nbd7 with more complications. 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 a6 ]

**11.Bxf6! gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+ Nxd7** White is slightly better. **13.0-0 a6 14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qh5** The latest attempt to give Black problems in this well-analysed line. **15...Nc5**

[ 15...Ke7 1.02/20 15...Nc5 0.47 16.Rfd1 0.27/17 has been considered in the game Avrukh - Grischuk, Biel 2007, in which White had reasonable chances to maintain a small advantage. has been considered in the game Avrukh - Grischuk, Biel 2007, in which White had reasonable chances to maintain a small advantage. ( White should try *16.Kh1± 1.02/20* )]

**16.Rb4!** A strong manoeuvre - Rb4-c4 followed by Nd4xe6 is threatened. And now Rc4 would win. **16...Qe5 17.Qh4** * RR: '!?'

[The endgame after 17.Qxe5 fxe5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 0-0-0 is certainly drawish although in the game Gulko - Salov, Linares 1990, White was able to maintain a slight edge by is certainly drawish although in the game Gulko - Salov, Linares 1990, White was able to maintain a slight edge by 20.f4! exf4 21.Rc4+ Kb8 22.Rxf4⩲ Yet, after Rd7 23.Rd4 Rc7 Hoping for ...e5! 24.Rd3 Rg8 25.Kf2 a5 26.c4 Ka7 27.Rh3 Rg7 28.Rh5 Ka6 29.Rfh4 a4 30.bxa4 Threatens to win with e5. Rxc4 31.g3 f5! 0.81/23 ( *31...Rxa4=* 0.01/24 remains equal. *32.Rxh7 Ra2+ 33.Ke3 Rxh7 34.Rxh7 b5* ) 32.Rh6!± Ka5? 2.50/21 ( *32...fxe4±* 0.97/21 *33.Rxe6+ Ka5* ) 33.Rxe6? 0.84/18 ( *33.Rxh7+-* 2.50/21 *Rc2+ 34.Ke3 Rxh7 35.Rxh7* ) 33...Kxa4? 4.30/26 ( *33...fxe4±* 0.84/18 is more resistant. *34.Rexe4 Rf7+ 35.Ke2 Rc2+ 36.Kd3 Ra2* ) 34.exf5+- Rxh4 35.gxh4 b5 Black eventually got half a point. ]

**17...Rd8!?N** A new continuation. A new continuation. RR: 'N' 'N'

[ 17...Qg5 ↑ 101/335 RR: 'Ü 101/335' 18.Qh3 With the idea Rc4. Qe5 19.Re1 Rd8 0.99/22 ( *19...Qf4⩲* 0.56/20 ) 20.Qe3!± Rg8 21.Nf3 Repels Qg5 Qc7 22.Rd4 Against Nd3 Nd7 23.Red1 Ke7 and slowly solved all the problems although White always kept some initiative: and slowly solved all the problems although White always kept some initiative: 24.g3 Ne5 25.Nxe5 Qxe5 26.Qc1 0.66/21 ( *26.Rb1!?; 26.h4±* 1.03/22 ) 26...Qc5 27.Qd2 Qc7 28.Qb2 Rxd4 29.cxd4⩲ Certainly Balogh did not want to carry on such a defence and so he decided not to push White's queen to a better position. Certainly Balogh did not want to carry on such a defence and so he decided not to push White's queen to a better position. ]

**18.Nf3!**

[ 18.Rfb1 simplifies Qxe4 19.Qxe4 Nxe4 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Rxe4 Rd6 22.h4 ]

**18...Qxc3** ...Rg8! is the strong threat. **19.e5!** White is logically trying to open the center and somehow get to his opponent's king. White is logically trying to open the center and somehow get to his opponent's king. **19...f5?** 1.92/22

[ 19...fxe5?! 1.89/22 19...Rg8 0.10 did not solve the problems: 20.Rc4 Qa5 21.Qh5!? with the initiative. with the initiative. ]

[However, 19...Rg8! deserved serious attention - the activity of all the pieces could have distracted White from his general plan. For example, deserved serious attention - the activity of all the pieces could have distracted White from his general plan. For example, 20.Qxh7 Ke7 21.Rf4 f5! with reasonable counterplay. ]

[ 19...Rg8!= 0.11/20 20.Qxh7 Rf8 ]

**20.Rc4+- Qa5 21.Ng5±** RR: '±'. aiming for Nxf7! **21...Ne4!?** Trying to exchange the dangerous knight.

[ 21...Nd7 22.f4! was just better for White. ]

**22.Rxe4** A nasty surprise - the knight will be alive and disturbing! A nasty surprise - the knight will be alive and disturbing!

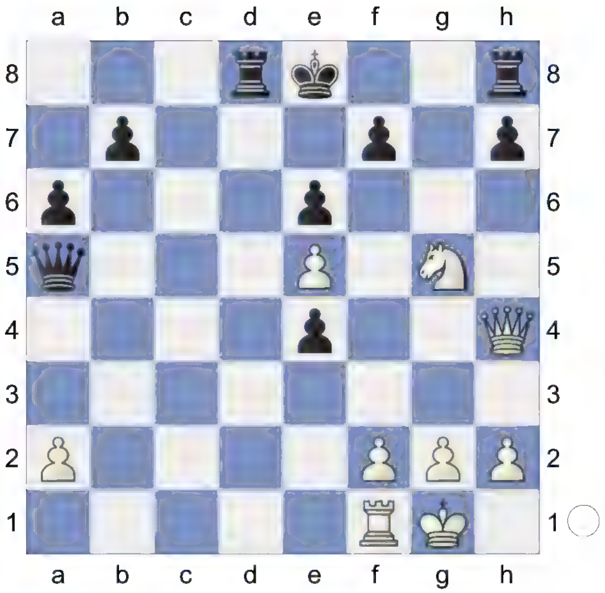
[ 22.Nxe4 fxe4 23.Qxe4 0.85/20 ( *⌓23.Qg5* 1.35/22 ) 23...Qd5 1.87/19 was more or less acceptable for Black. was more or less acceptable for Black. ( *23...h5±* 0.85/20 )]

[ 22.Nxh7 Qxe5 ( *22...Qxa2? perishes. 23.Rc7+-* ) 23.f4 Qg7= ]

[ 22.Nxe4?! fxe4 23.Qxe4 Qxa2⩲ ]

**22...fxe4**

(Diagram)



**23.Qf4 Rf8** 3.76/22

[ 23...Qc7 was maybe more tenacious although White's superiority after was maybe more tenacious although White's superiority after 24.Nxe4 followed by Ne4-d6 was beyond doubt. followed by Ne4-d6 was beyond doubt. ]

[Worse is 23...Qxa2 24.Qxf7# ]

[ 23...Qc7 2.18/19 might work better. 24.h3 e3 25.fxe3 Rd7 ]

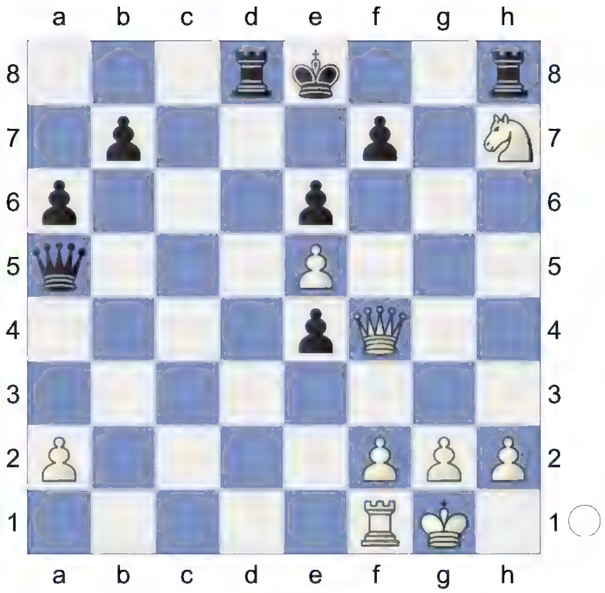
**24.Nxh7?!** 1.49/19

[ White should have directed his knight to the center: White should have directed his knight to the center: 24.Nxe4! f5 25.Nd6+ Rxd6 26.exd6 and Black could hardly defend his king. and Black could hardly defend his king. ]

[ 24.Nxe4+- 3.76/22 Qa3 25.Nd6+ Rxd6 26.exd6 ]

**24...Rh8**

(Diagram)



**25.Ng5→** The pawn on h7 was not so important - in some cases its absence would be even helpful for Black, whose rook might be useful on the opened h-file. The pawn on h7 was not so important - in some cases its absence would be even helpful for Black, whose rook might be useful on the opened h-file. White wants a kill. **25...Rf8** 3.87/16 Too passive. This costs Black the game.

[ 25...Qc7! should have been played: should have been played: 26.Nxe4 0.99/21 ( ⌓26.g3 1.60/22 ) 26...Kf8 with chances to hold on. ]

[ 25...Qxa2 26.Qxf7# ]

[ 25...Qc7± 1.33/23 was called for. ]

**26.Nxe4+-** Now it's over. **26...Kd7** 5.82/19

[ ⌓26...f5 4.04/17 ]

**27.Rc1!** White threatens Nf6+ and mate. **27...Rc8** Strongly threatening ...Rxc1+. **28.Nf6+ Ke7** It might seem that Black is defending successfully but... It might seem that Black is defending successfully but... **29.Ng8+!** This wonderful blow ends Black's resistance. Clearance **29...Kd7** #10/15

[Or 29...Rxg8 30.Qf6+ Ke8 31.Rxc8+ Kd7 32.Rc1!+- Inhibits Qe1+. ]

[ 29...Rxg8+- 5.19/23 30.Qf6+ Ke8

31.Rxc8+ Kd7 ]

**30.Qd4+** Black resigned. 1-0 (30)

Tkachiev,V (2661)-Balogh,C (2562) Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2007 [R. Scherbakov].

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.76

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Riazantsev,Alexander** **2632**
■ **Sorokin,Maxim** **2561**
Polyarniy Krug (5) 03.12.2006
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Black played a rare continuation and comfortably solved the opening problems but it seems that White could still maintain a small advantage with more precise play.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

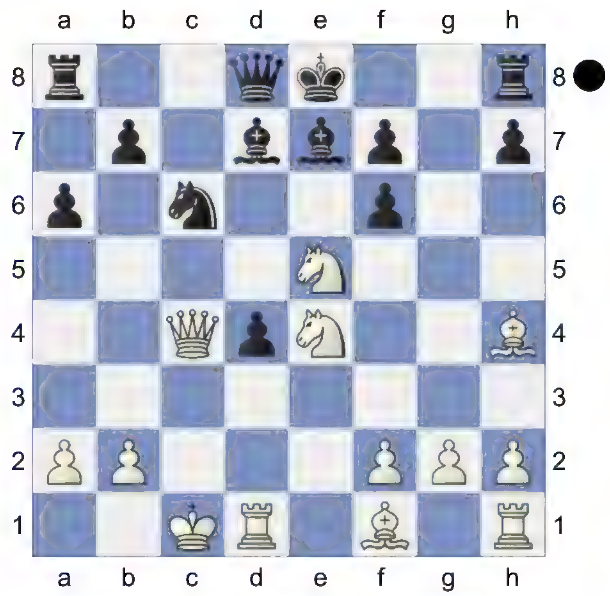
A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16*) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006*) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4!** The position is equal. **12...a6** A rare option. **13.Qxc4**

[ 13.Bxc4? b5 14.Bxb5 axb5-+ ]

**13...e5 14.Nxe5!**



Deflection **14...Nxe5 15.Qxd4 Qc7+** A novelty.

[Before Black only played 15...Rc8+ 16.Kb1 With the idea Be2. 0-0 and White could still get advantage:. White must now prevent ...Bf5.

A) or 17.Bd3!? Rc6 0.52/20 ( *17...Be6= 0.00/23 18.Qe3 Nxd3 19.Rxd3 Qa5* ) 18.f3 -0.18/23 ( *18.Nc3± 0.52/20* ) 18...Qa5 Hoping for ...Be6. 19.Be1 Qc7! And now ...Be6 would win. 20.Bc3±

Chiburdanidze - Kosteniuk, Krasnoturjinsk 2005;

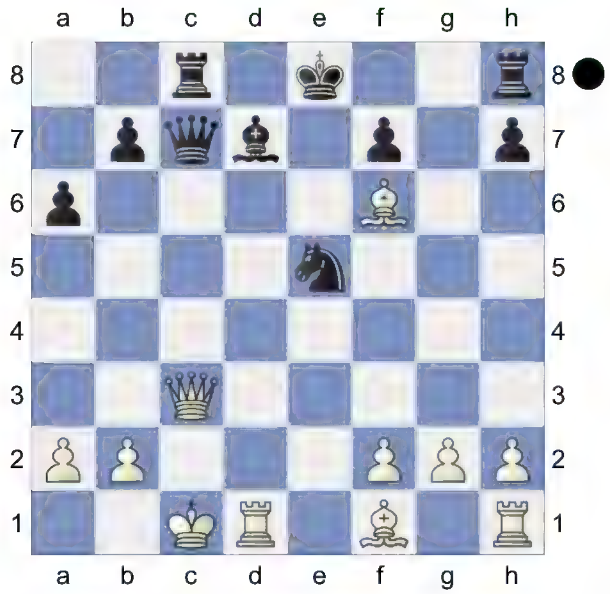
**B)** 17.Be2 Bf5 and here White should have played 18.Qe3! ( *18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.f3 Kg7* was acceptable for Black in the game Van Wely - Morozevich, Monte Carlo 2002*)* 18...Qc7 19.Ka1! with the better chances. ]

**16.Qc3** Perhaps not the best continuation.

[ 16.Kb1!? deserved serious attention. Possible play could be Bf5 aiming for ...Rd8. ( *16...0-0-0!?* was worthy of consideration but it couldn't completely solve the problems: *17.Rc1 Bc6 18.Qe3* and so on ) 17.Be2 Qc6 18.f3± with better chances for White. ]

**16...Rc8 17.Qxc7**

[ 17.Nxf6+?! -0.81/20 17.Qxc7 -0.11 could bring nothing but trouble: Bxf6 18.Bxf6



Qb6 -0.14/22 ( *18...Qb8!∓* -0.71/23 *19.Bxh8 Rxc3+ 20.bxc3 Ke7 21.Bxe5 Qxe5* ) 19.Qxc8+ -1.38/20 ( *19.Bxe5=* -0.14/22 *Rxc3+ 20.Bxc3* ) 19...Bxc8∓ 20.Bxh8 -2.20/21 ( *20.Bxe5∓* -1.32/21 was the only chance. *0-0 21.Kb1* ) 20...f6↑ and White's king would face problems because of his lack of development. ]

[ 17.Bxf6? perishes. Qa5-+ ]

[ 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Bxf6 Qb6 ( *18...Qxc3+?* is the wrong capture. *19.bxc3 Ng6 20.Bxh8+-* ) 19.Bxe5 ( *19.Bxh8? Rxc3+ 20.bxc3 f6-+; 19.Qxc8+ Bxc8 20.Bxe5 0-0∓* ) 19...Rxc3+ 20.Bxc3 Rg8∓ ]

**17...Rxc7+ 18.Kb1 Bf5 19.f3 0-0 20.Be2 Rfc8** In the endgame Black looks rather solid – the doubled pawns on the f-file do not bother him much. **21.Rc1** Prevents Rc2 **21...Nc4 22.Bxc4 Rxc4 23.b3 Rxc1+** Only this move is a novelty.

[ In the game Bergsson - Landa, Chalkidiki 2002 Black had no problems after 23...R4c6 24.Rxc6 Rxc6 25.Rc1 Re6 26.Re1 Bb4 27.Re2 Bg6 28.Kb2 Kg7= and he eventually won the game. ]

[ 23...Bxe4+ 24.fxe4 R4c6 25.Rcf1 ]

**24.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 25.Kxc1=** Endgame. KBB-KBN **25...Kg7 26.Kd2 Be6 27.Kd3 f5!** The simplest way to avoid problems. Discovered Attack **28.Bxe7 fxe4+ 29.fxe4 Bd7** Building a fortress. **30.Kd4 h5 31.Ke5 Kg6** Draw agreed. An even fight not without its subleties. Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D44**

☐ **Sakaev,Konstantin** **2669**
■ **Yakovich,Yuri** **2560**
RUS-ch SemiFinal (9) 11.09.2005
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The Botvinnik Variation with the inclusion of the moves ...Bf8-b4 and a2-a4 is known to be suspicious for Black, but if you know some ideas and also take your opponent by surprise it may work well. Yuri Yakovich used to play it from time to time but it was Konstantin Sakaev who came up with a novelty here on move 19. Soon he sacrificed a piece and his opponent eventually failed to withstand the strong pressure and allowed White to finish the game with a series of beautiful manoeuvres. As to the opening line, it seems that White's choice allows Black to achieve a playable position.
D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!''Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The Botvinnik Variation with the inclusion of the moves ...Bf8-b4 and a2-a4 is known to be suspicious for Black, but if you know some ideas and also take your opponent by surprise it may work well. Yuri Yakovich used to play it from time to time but it was Konstantin Sakaev who came up with a novelty here on move 19. Soon he sacrificed a piece and his opponent eventually failed to withstand the strong pressure and allowed White to finish the game with a series of beautiful manoeuvres. As to the opening line, it seems that White's choice allows Black to achieve a playable position.' **1.d4** Scherbakov, Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Instead of the common way to play the Vienna by'

[ Instead of the common way to play the Vienna by 6...c5 Yuri Yakovich goes for a very risky set-up. ]

**7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3** White prefers to complete his development first. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'It is also known that White gets better chances by'

[ It is also known that White gets better chances by 11.h4 g4! 12.Ne5 0.31/19 *(White should try 12.Ng5 0.70/21 )* 12...Rxg7⩲ 13.h5 and perhaps this way is more promising for White. However, Black might also find his chances in the very sharp play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and perhaps this way is more promising for White. However, Black might also find his chances in the very sharp play.' ]

[ 11.axb5 cxb5 12.h4 g4= ]

**11...Bb7** ...c5 is the strong threat.

**12.Bg2! c5!** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'According to tournament practice the alternative'

[ According to tournament practice the alternative 12...Nd7?! does not promise easy play for Black after 13.h4 gxh4 14.Rxh4± ]

**13.0-0**

[ 13.axb5 cxd4 14.Ra4 g4 15.Rxb4 dxc3 16.Qxd8+ Kxd8= ]

**13...g4** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'After'. White is slightly better.

[After 13...Rxg7?! 14.dxc5 0.98/18 ( *⌓14.axb5* 1.56/22 *g4 15.Ne5* Discovered Attack *Bxg2 16.Kxg2 cxd4 17.Qa4 Bxc3 18.b6+ Kf8 19.bxc3 Qxb6 20.Rfb1* Decoy ) 14...Qxd1 1.94/22 ( *14...g4±* 0.98/18 *15.Qxd8+ Kxd8 16.Rfd1+ Ke7* ) 15.Rfxd1+- Bxc3 16.bxc3↑ with an annoying initiative in the endgame, Kaspi - K.Mueller, Berlin 1994. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with an annoying initiative in the endgame, Kaspi - K.Mueller, Berlin 1994.' ]

**14.Nh4** 0.47/19 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Yakovich wasn't too disappointed by the result of the actual game and later repeated the line in the game Duhayon - Yakovich, Port Erin 2005, in which his opponent preferred'. A dynamic duo of knights.

[ Yakovich wasn't too disappointed by the result of the actual game and later repeated the line in the game Duhayon - Yakovich, Port Erin 2005, in which his opponent preferred 14.Ne5!? 0.13/20 14.axb5 0.86 Bxg2 15.Kxg2 cxd4

**A)** after 16.Nxg4 -1.02/25 16.Qxg4 0.00 dxc3 0.32/19 ( *16...Rxg7∓* -1.02/25 *17.Nxb5 Nc6* ) 17.Qf3⩲ Nd7 18.Rad1? -1.52/20 ( *18.bxc3=* 0.26/20 *Be7 19.Rfd1 Rxg7 20.Rxd7 Kxd7 21.Rd1+ Bd6 22.Nf6+ Ke7 23.Ne4 bxa4 24.Nxd6* ) 18...Rxg7∓ Black was just fine;

**B)** 16.Qxg4!? Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'after' 16...dxc3 17.Rad1 Inhibits Qd5+. Qc7! Threatens to win with ...c2. 18.Qe4 Rxg7 ( *18...c2?!* was dubious: *19.Qh7 Rxg7 20.Qxg7* White wants to mate with Qg8+. *cxd1Q 21.Rxd1↑* with the initiative) 19.axb5↑ and White has maintained his initiative. Yet, after Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and White has maintained his initiative. Yet, after' f5 20.Qxa8 Qxe5 21.Rfe1 Qxb5? 3.83/28 ( *21...c2=* 0.00/22 and Black is okay. *22.Rd8+ Kxd8 23.Rxe5 c1Q 24.Qxb8+ Ke7* ) 22.bxc3? 0.03/19 ( *22.Rxe6+-* 3.83/28 *Re7 23.Rd5* ) 22...Bxc3= 23.Rxe6+ ( *23.Re3!? Be5□ 24.f4=* ) 23...Re7! 24.Rxe7+ Kxe7 25.Qxa7+ Nd7 26.Rxd7+ Qxd7 27.Qe3+ Kf7 28.Qxc3 Qb7+ 29.Qf3 Qc8! Black drew thanks to his passed pawn. ]

[Only move: 14.axb5!± 1.45/23 Rxg7 ( *14...Bxf3? 15.Bxf3 gxf3 16.Qxf3+-* ) 15.Ne5 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 cxd4 17.Qa4 dxc3 ( *17...Bxc3 18.b6+ Kf8 19.bxc3+-* ) 18.b6+ Nd7 19.Rfd1 ]

**14...Bxg2⩲ 15.Nxg2 cxd4** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'In case of'

[In case of 15...Rxg7 16.dxc5 Qxd1 17.Rfxd1⩲ White could achieve a small but comfortable edge in the endgame. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White could achieve a small but comfortable edge in the endgame.' ]

**16.Nxb5 Nc6** 0.75/21

[ 16...a6!⩲ 0.33/24 ]

**17.Qxg4± a6**

[ 17...Rc8? 2.27/20 17...a6 0.71 turned out to be a waste of important time: 18.Rad1 Bc5 3.57/20 *( ⌓18...Qf6* 2.31/22 *)* 19.Nf4+- a6 5.01/19 *( ⌓19...Ne5* 3.41/20 *20.Qe2 Nd3 )* 20.Nxe6!+- fxe6 21.Qh5+ Kd7 22.Qxc5 axb5 23.axb5 Ne7 24.Qxd4+ Nd5 25.f4 Ke7 26.f5 Qb6 27.Qxb6 Nxb6 28.Rfe1 and Black resigned, Shtyrenkov - Rodin, Briansk 1995. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and Black resigned, Shtyrenkov - Rodin, Briansk 1995.' ]

**18.Qe4** 0.79/20

[ ⌓18.Nf4 1.24/22 ]

**18...Rc8** The only move.

[ 18...Qd7? 4.21/19 18...Rc8 0.34 19.Nxd4! ]

[ 18...Ne7? 19.Nc7+! ]

**19.Qh7!?** -0.04/19 Only this move is a novelty! Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In the game Jussupow - Van Wely, Groningen 1994 White played'. Wards off axb5. White is much more active.

[ In the game Jussupow - Van Wely, Groningen 1994 White played 19.Rfd1! Bc5 *( 19...axb5* 1.66/19 19...Bc5 0.57 *20.axb5 Ne7 21.Rxd4 Qb6 22.Ne3! Bc5 )* 20.Qh7 and here Black could have achieved a playable position by Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and here Black could have achieved a playable position by'. Prevents axb5. Ne7 *( 20...Kd7?!* 1.29/19 20...Ke7 0.70 *21.Na3 Bxa3 22.Rxa3→* gave White a strong attack against his opponent's centralised king *)* 21.Na3! Bxa3 22.Rxa3 Qb6 though White's chances were still preferable after 23.Raa1⩲ ]

[White should play 19.Rfd1!⩲ 0.88/23 Bc5 *( 19...axb5? 20.axb5 Qd5 21.Qxd5+- )* 20.Qh7 ]

**19...Ne7= 20.Nf4!** This brave sacrifice is probably the only attempt to give Black problems. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In case of the faint-hearted retreat' **20...axb5 21.Nh5!→** White mounts an attack. **21...f5 22.Qh6!** White has to play energetically. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White has to play energetically.'

[ 22.Nf6+? -2.02/5 22.Qh6 0.00 Kf7 23.Nxg8 Qxg8-+ was just bad for him. ]

**22...Qd6** aiming for ...e5. **23.axb5 Qe5!** Black is defending precisely - here the queen is well placed since the e1-square is under the control of the bishop. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black is defending precisely - here the queen is well placed since the e1-square is under the control of the bishop.'

[ 23...d3?! 2.99/21 23...Qe5 -0.27 24.Ra6↑ ]

**24.Ra6** Chess con chili.

[ 24.Ra6!? Kf7□ 25.Nf4 Rxg7 26.Nxe6= ]

[ 24.Ra4!? Bd6□ *( 24...Qxb5? 25.Rfa1+- )* 25.Raa1⩲ ]

**24...Bd6?** 2.66/20 This tempting move is actually a big mistake. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Black should have used his king as a defender:'. A mistake that costs the game.

[ Black should have used his king as a defender: 24...Kf7! 25.Nf4!

A) again, 25...Bd6? 4.59/20

25...Rxg7 -0.15 could have been met by 26.Rxd6! Qxd6 27.Re1 Rxg7 Strongly threatening ...d3. 28.Rxe6→ with a very strong attack: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with a very strong attack:' Qd7 29.Rf6+ Kg8 30.Nh5! Rh7 ( *30...Nd5?* 4.80/21 30...Rh7 2.68 *31.Rd6* ) 31.Qg5+ Kh8 32.Rh6! Ng8 33.Nf6 Nxf6 34.Qxf6+ Kg8 35.Rg6+ Rg7 36.Rxg7+ Qxg7 37.Qe6++- followed by Qe6-c8 and White's b-pawn is also far advanced so he should win this endgame Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'followed by Qe6-c8 and White's b-pawn is also far advanced so he should win this endgame';

**B)** 25...Rxg7! Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'again,' 26.Nxe6 ( *26.Rxe6?* -3.52/16 26.Nxe6 0.00 *Rh8! 27.Qxh8 Rxg3+!-+* ) 26...Rg6 27.Ng5+! Rxg5! 28.Qxg5 Black should prevent Qh5+. d3 and Black should be fine thanks to his very good pieces and strong pawns. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and Black should be fine thanks to his very good pieces and strong pawns. ' ]

[ 24...Qxb5? 25.Qxe6+- ( *25.Rxe6 Rc6+-; 25.Rxe6 Bc5+-* )]

[ 24...Kf7= 0.04/21 and Black has nothing to worry. ]

**25.Nf6++- Kf7**

[ 25...Kd8? 8.38/20 25...Kf7 2.16 failed to 26.Ra7 , after which Black faced enormous material losses. ]

**26.Nd7** Nobody wants to give such a knight for some rook on g8. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Nobody wants to give such a knight for some rook on g8.'

[ 26.Nxg8 Rxg8 27.b6 Bb8∓ ( *27...Qxg7 28.Qxg7+ Rxg7 29.Rc1±; 27...Rxg7 28.Qh5+ Ng6 29.Ra7+ Kf6 30.h4=* )]

**26...Qd5** 4.13/23 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In the endgame after'

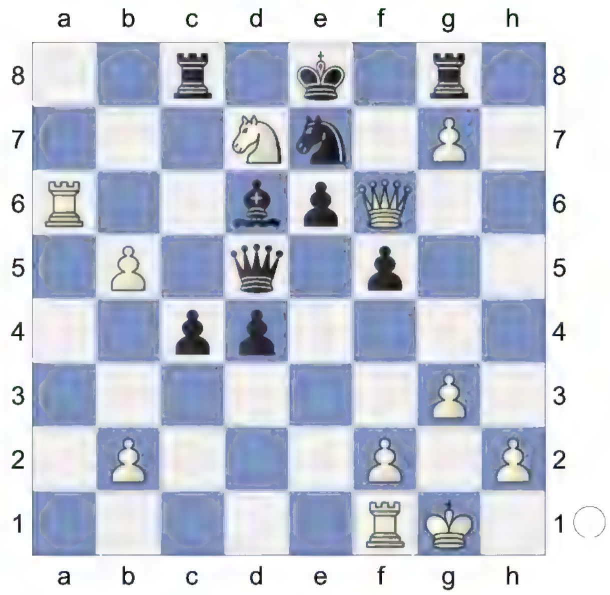
[In the endgame after 26...Qxg7 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 Black was losing his extra piece: 28.Rxd6+- ]

[ 26...Qxg7 2.59/20 keeps fighting. 27.Qxg7+ Kxg7 ]

**27.Qf6+** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The preliminary'

[The preliminary 27.Re1 was even stronger but a bit more complicated. With the text move White clarifies the position. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was even stronger but a bit more complicated. With the text move White clarifies the position.' ]

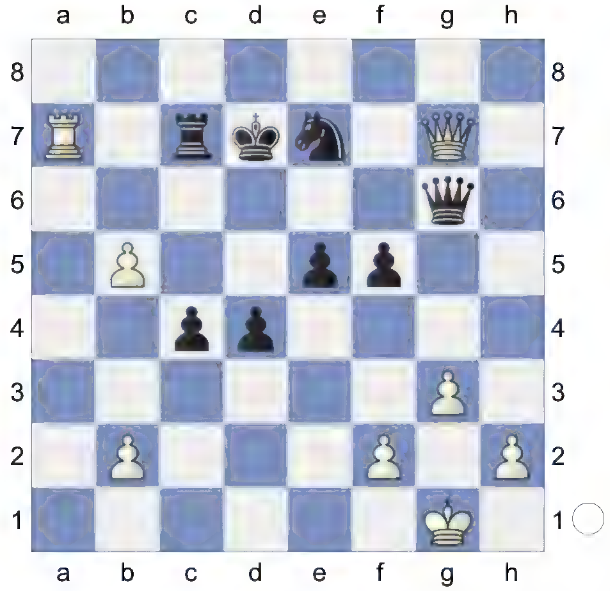
**27...Ke8**



**28.Rxd6** This sacrifice makes the white knight a monster. **28...Qxd6 29.Ne5** The knight has finished its glorious way on this excellent central square. It's hard to believe but White's two powerful pieces and the pawn on g7 are overwhelming Black's five pieces! Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The knight has finished its glorious way on this excellent central square. It's hard to believe but White's two powerful pieces and the pawn on g7 are overwhelming Black's five pieces!' **29...d3**

[ 29...Rc5!? was probably more tenacious but White was already winning: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was probably more tenacious but White was already winning:' 30.Qf7+! Kd8 31.Ng6! Ra1 would now be deadly.

**A)** 31...Rxg7 was losing to the beautiful Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was losing to the beautiful' 32.Qf8+ Kd7 33.Qxg7 Hoping for Ra1. e5 34.Ra1! Qxg6 35.Ra7+ Rc7

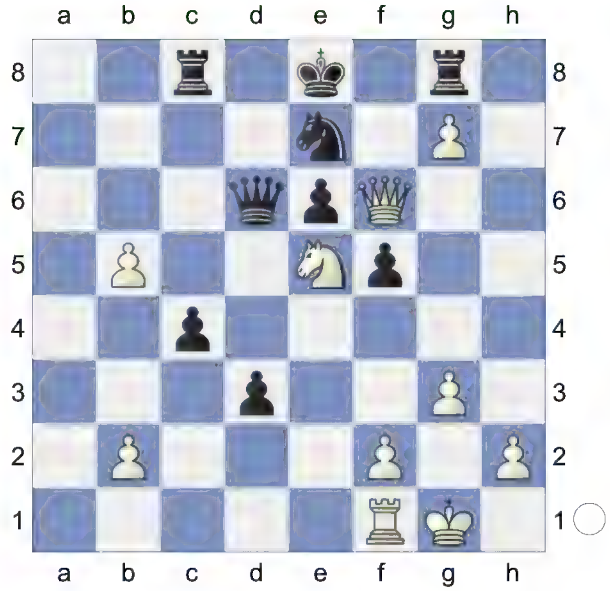


36.Qxg6! Nxg6? 5.40/20 ( *36...Rxa7* 3.18/19 *37.Qb6 Ra1+ 38.Kg2 d3* ) 37.b6!+-;

**B)** while in case of 31...d3? 5.38/21 31...Rxg7 2.57 32.Ra1 d2 the most precise way seemed to be Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'the most precise way seemed to be' 33.Kg2! since. And now Nxe7 would win. d1Q 8.27/22 failed to ( *⌓33...Rxg7* 4.48/20 *34.Qf8+ Kd7 35.Qxg7 Rxb5 36.Nxe7 Qe5 37.Ra7+ Kd6 38.Nxf5+ exf5 39.Qf8+ Kc6 40.Qc8+ Kd5 41.Rd7+* Skewer *Qd6 42.Rxd6+ Kxd6 43.Qd8+ Ke5 44.Qxd2 Ke6* ) 34.Rxd1+- Qxd1 35.Qxe7+ Kc8 36.Qxc5+;

**C)** ⌓31...Rxg7 3.48/21 32.Qf8+ Kc7 33.Qxg7 Kb6;

**D)** 31...e5 5.01/20 Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'while in case of' 32.Nxe7+- Rxg7! 33.Nc6+! Qxc6!? ( *33...Rxc6 34.Qxg7 Rc7 35.Qg5++-* ) 34.Qf8+! Qe8 35.Qxc5+- and Black has too many weaknesses. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and Black has too many weaknesses.' ]



**30.b6!** This unexpected pawn advance creates a mating threat and so distracts the Black queen from defending the knight on e7. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black resigned in view of'.
Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.43

**1-0**

**D39**
☐ **Azmaiparashvili,Zurab 2670**
■ **Dreev,Alexey 2675**
XVI ECC, Neum (3) 2000
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Not the usual story for Alexey Dreev. One of the biggest experts of the variation is eliminated in brilliant style. A beautiful game!
D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bd7** 0.72/21 Wards off Qa4

[ 8...Bxc3+ ]

[ 8...Qa5⩲ 0.36/22 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxf6 gxf6 *( 10...Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 gxf6 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.0-0= )*]

**9.0-0±**

[ 9.e5 -0.26/23 9.0-0 0.46 Qa5 10.exf6 -0.44/24 *( 10.0-0= 0.00/23 Qxe5 11.Nf3 )*

A) 10...Bxc3+ 1.03/21 10...Qxg5 -0.41 11.bxc3 Qxc3+? 3.36/21 *( 11...Qxg5± 0.91/17 12.fxg7 Qxg7 )* 12.Qd2!+- Qxa1+? 5.20/18 *( 12...Qxc4 2.85/18 13.fxg7 Rg8 )* 13.Ke2!+- Qxh1 #10/18 *( 13...Qxd4+- 5.19/17 14.Qxd4 0-0 )* 14.fxg7 7.52/19 *( ⌓14.Qb4 #10/18 Qd1+* Decoy *15.Kxd1 Ba4+ 16.Kc1 Nc6 17.Nxc6 Kd7 18.Bf4 e5 19.Qe7+ Kc8 20.Bxe5 bxc6 21.Qc7# )* 14...Rg8+- 15.Nf5? is much weaker as after;

B) 10...Qxg5∓ 11.fxg7+- Rg8? 0.04/18 *( 11...Qxg7∓ -0.52/23 12.0-0 Nc6 )* 12.0-0= Rxg7 0.57/23 *( 12...Nc6= 0.07/21 13.g3 0-0-0 )* 13.g3⩲ Nc6 ]

**9...Nc6 10.Rc1 a6** White is slightly better. **11.a3**

[ 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Qxd8+ -0.24/23 *( 12.Qe2⩲ 0.31/18 )* 12...Rxd8= 13.e5± with a big advantage in the ending but Black can still resist. other defences do not work: 13...Rd4? 0.25/23 *( ⌓13...h6 -0.24/22 14.Be3 Ng4 )* 14.exf6 -0.11/25 *( 14.Bxa6 0.25/23* is more appropriate. *Rg4 15.Bb5 Rxg2+ 16.Kh1 Rxg5+ 17.Bxc6+ bxc6 18.exf6 gxf6 19.Ne4 )* 14...Rg4 0.36/22 *( 14...Rxc4= -0.11/25* is superior. *15.fxg7 Rg8 )* 15.f3 -0.30/23 *( 15.Bd5!⩲ 0.36/22 exd5 16.fxg7 )*

15...Rxg5= 16.fxg7 -0.76/20 ( *16.Ne4∓* -0.40/21 *Bxe4 17.fxg7 Rxg7 18.fxe4* ) 16...Rg8 ]

**11...Be7**

[ 11...Bd6! 12.Nf5 Bxh2+ 13.Kxh2 exf5 14.exf5 0-0! 15.Nd5!? Black must now prevent Bxf6. Bxf5 16.Nxf6+ 0.45/20 ( *16.Bxf6±* 0.88/21 *gxf6 17.Qf3* ) 16...gxf6± 17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.Bxf6 ]

**12.Nf3** White is much more active.

**12...Ng4?!** According to Zurab Azmaiparashvili, this is not best option for Black in this position. **13.Bxe7** 0.24/21 Creating development problems for Black.

[ 13.Bf4! And now h3 would win. Bf6!? ( *13...e5* 1.37/24 *13...Bf6* 0.97 *14.Bg3± h5!?* allowed White to break the King's shield immediately:) 14.Bd6 Nge5 ]

[ 13.Bf4± 0.61/22 ]

**13...Qxe7= 14.Qe2 Qf6** 0.72/21

[ 14...Nge5= 0.06/20 remains equal. ]

**15.Rcd1!** 0.36/22 Still not allowing Black to move the Knight from d7!

[ 15.h3± 0.72/21 Nge5 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bd5 ]

**15...h5** A new continuation in a position where Black has already tried lots of possibilities. Taking into consideration what now happened we can conclude that this is not the best decision but it seems that Black is already suffering.

**16.h3!**

[ 16.Nd5 seems wilder. exd5 17.exd5+ Kf8 18.dxc6 Bxc6 19.Nd4 ]

**16...Nce5?** 0.96/19 Consistent but wrong. That was probably what Alexey had intended but he obviously overlooked some of White's ideas in the complications.

[ 16...Nge5± 0.31/21 ]

**17.Nxe5** 0.24/22

[ 17.hxg4? hxg4 18.Rd3 ( *18.Nxe5 Qh6 19.f4 g3* ) 18...Nxd3-+ ( *18...Nxc4? 19.Nd4-+; 18...gxf3? 19.Rxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Qxf3-+* )]

[ 17.Nd4± 0.96/19 ]

**17...Qxe5** 0.72/25

[ 17...Nxe5 18.Ba2? -0.46/21 was much less gruesome for Black: (White should try *18.Rd6=* 0.21/23 *)*]

[ 17...Nxe5= 0.24/22 should be considered. 18.f4 Nxc4 19.Qxc4 Bc6 ]

**18.g3!±** An excellent resource!

[ 18.hxg4 -0.48/20 18.g3 0.48 hxg4 19.f4!∓ and Black is consolidating. Of course not 19...Qc5+?? ]

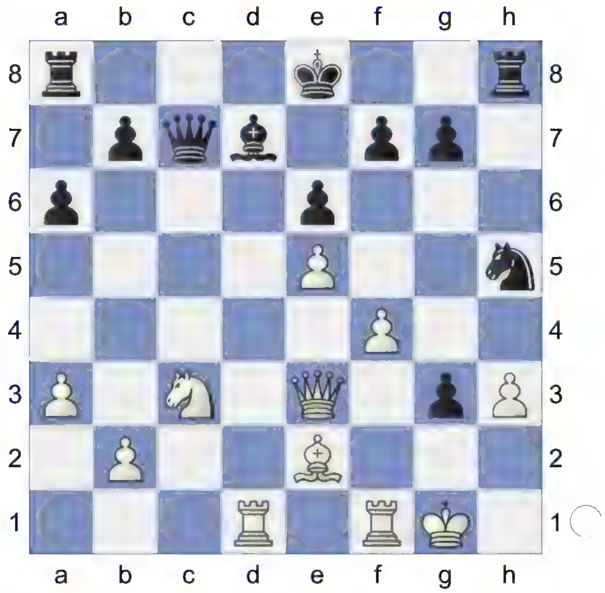
[Much worse is 18.hxg4 hxg4 19.f4 Qc5+ 20.Qf2 ( *20.Rf2? g3-+ Pin* ) 20...Qxc4∓ ]

**18...Nf6 19.Qe3!** Very energetic play!

**19...h4 20.g4** Strongly threatening f4.

[ 20.f4□ Qc7+- Black had nothing to hope for. 21.Be2? -0.39/20 ( *21.Rd4±* 0.38/22 ) 21...hxg3∓ 22.e5

A) 22...Nh5? 1.86/21 22...Ng8 -0.54



23.Ne4 1.08/18 ( *23.f5!+-* 1.86/21 )

23...Bc6 2.41/20 ( *23...Bb5±* 1.08/18 was called for.) 24.Nd6++- Ke7? 4.14/20 ( *24...Kf8* 2.21/23 ) 25.f5;

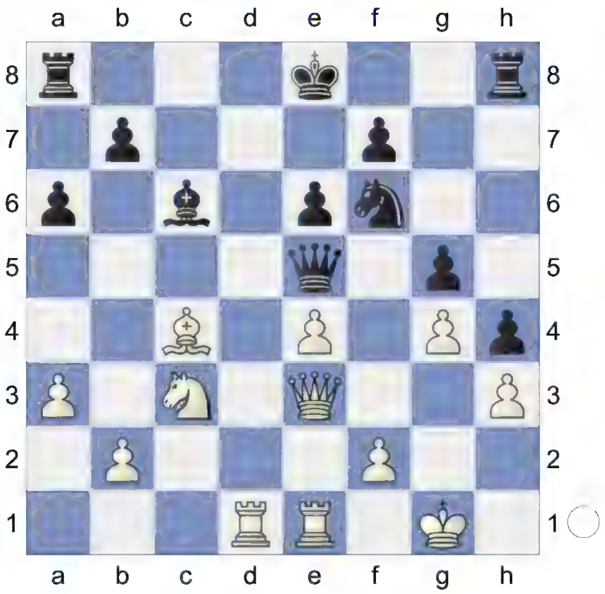
**B)** 22...Ng8!∓ -0.43/22;

**C)** 22...Rxh3? 2.19/20 23.Kg2? -0.79/22 ( *23.exf6+-* 2.19/20 *Bc6 24.Ne4 gxf6 25.Kg2* ) 23...Rh2+? 1.25/20 ( *23...Nd5!∓* -0.79/22 keeps the pressure on. *24.Nxd5 exd5* ) 24.Kxg3± Rxe2 25.Qxe2? was just bad: ]

**20...g5** A sad necessity. The Knight has made some unfortunate attempts to get into play but has finally been forced to return home. Perhaps it should have stayed there from the very beginning but then look the rook a8. **21.Rfe1** **Bc6** 0.53/22

[ 21...Rc8 22.Bb3! Bc6 23.Nd5 Nd7 Repels Qc5 24.Rc1 ]

[ 21...0-0= 0.00/24 ]



**22.Bd5!±** **Rc8** Prevents Qc5

[ 22...exd5? 2.83/24 22...0-0 0.45 23.exd5 Qxe3 24.Rxe3+ ]

[ 22...exd5? loses. 23.exd5 Qxe3 24.Rxe3+ Kf8 25.dxc6 bxc6 26.Re5+- ]

[ 22...0-0 23.Bxc6 ]

**23.Bxc6++-** Black is helpless. Actually White has a material advantage in addition to the attack. **23...Rxc6** **24.Qa7!** 0.09/20

[Better is 24.Ne2± 0.70/21 ]

**24...0-0=** **25.Qxb7** Now everything is forced till the very end. **25...Rfc8** **26.Nd5** Hoping for Ne7+. **26...Kg7** The position is equal.

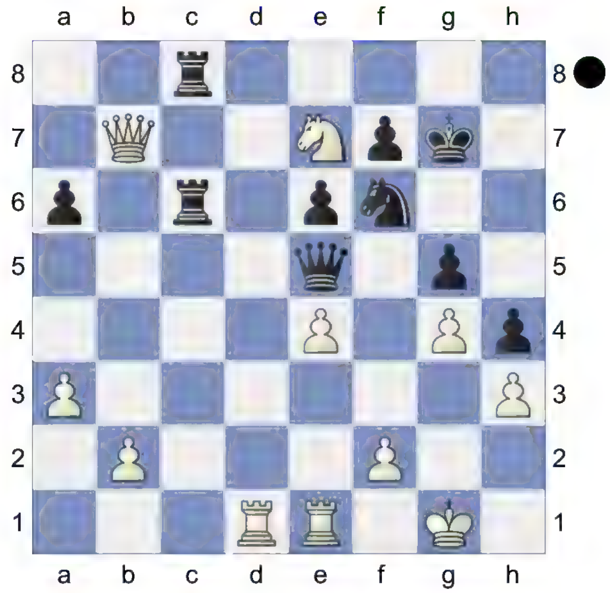
[ 26...Rc2 and here White has lots of winning possibilities, for example 27.Nb4!? ]

[ 26...exd5? too greedy. 27.exd5+- ]

**27.Nb4**

[ 27.Nxf6 Qxf6 ]

[ 27.Ne7∞ -2.10/22 27.Nxf6 -0.08



and Black is not losing yet. Rc2! was equally bad:. ( -> ...Rxf2!) 28.Nxc8? -6.90/23 ( *28.Qxc8* -1.86/18 *Rxc8 29.Nxc8* ) 28...Qf4 29.Qb6 Qd4! is the strong threat. Nxg4 30.hxg4 Qxg4+ 31.Kh2 Qf4+ -3.04/23 ( *△31...Qg3+* -6.78/18 *32.Kh1 Qf3+ 33.Kh2 Rxf2+ 34.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 35.Kh1 Qf3+ 36.Kg1 h3* ) 32.Kg1! -6.29/17 ( *△32.Kg2* -3.04/23

*Qg4+ 33.Kh2 Qg3+ 34.Kh1 Qf3+ 35.Kh2 Rxf2+ 36.Qxf2 Qxf2+ 37.Kh1 Qf3+ 38.Kg1 )* 32...Qg4+-+ 33.Kh2 ]

**27...Rc4** Black has compensation. **28.Nd3 Qa5 29.Nb4** e5! would now be deadly. **29...Qe5** **30.Nd3** Black resigned. An excellent victory for Zurab Azmaiparashvili! **30...Qa5** was impossible due to **31.Nb4!** with a quick checkmate. Threatens to win with e5!Precision is still required, some thoughtless moves like **31...Qe5?** would have made White's task much more difficult:.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.19 (very precise) . Loss on time!?

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Sasikiran,Krishnan** **2654**

■ **Gustafsson,Jan** **2572**

Canarias en Red final playoff blitz (2.4)

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

A new and rather interesting approach by Krishnan Sasikiran. Instead of going for the h7-pawn by Qd1-h5-h7, after which White's queen is usually rather passive, he moved it to the opposite direction, on b3. The idea is fairly interesting - first to stop the development of Black's rook and bishop and then to find an opportunity to get a pawn back by using the better position of White's pieces and the vulnerable position of Black's king. In the game this approach worked very well and it certainly deserves more attention. It might also increase the popularity of the whole 10.Bxf6 approach since Black is recently holding on after 10. Bb5.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'A new and rather interesting approach by Krishnan Sasikiran. Instead of going for the h7-pawn by Qd1-h5-h7, after which White's queen is usually rather passive, he moved it to the opposite direction, on b3. The idea is fairly interesting - first to stop the development of Black's rook and bishop and then to find an opportunity to get a pawn back by using the better position of White's pieces and the vulnerable position of Black's king. In the game this approach worked very well and it certainly deserves more attention. It might also increase the popularity of the whole 10.Bxf6 approach since Black is recently holding on after 10. Bb5.' **1.Nf3** Scherbakov, Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4N**

[ 4.e3

**A)** 4...Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 b6 *( 6...c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Bc4 Qd8 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.h4 h6 12.g4 Bf6 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.hxg5 Qxg5 15.0-0-0 Nb4 16.f4 Qg6 17.Qxg6 fxg6 18.d4 b5 19.Bxb5 Bb7 20.Rhg1 Nxa2+ 21.Kb1* ½-½ (28) 7.Bb3 b5 8.a4 (2561)-Getz,A (2329) Paris mt 1913 (1.2)) 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 Bb7 9.Rc1 Nbd7 10.g3 Re8 11.Bg2 Bd6 12.0-0 a6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Ne2 c6 15.Nf4 Rac8 16.Rfd1 a5 17.a4 Ba6 Lenderman,A (2600)-Yilmaz,M (2619) 136/(174) Reykjavik 2018;

**B)** 4...c6 5.Qc2 Nbd7 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 Qe7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.d4 Nxc3 12.Qxc3 e4 13.Ne5 f5 14.Nxd7

Bxd7 15.g3 Be6 16.Bc4 Rfd8 17.Bxe6+ Qxe6 18.d5 Qe7 19.dxc6 1-0 (29) Burnett,A (2174)-Giulian Jackson,R (1935) BCF-ch Seniors 50 2024 (1);

**C)** 4...c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 exd5 7.b4 cxb4 8.Bb2 Nc6 9.Rc1 Be6 10.Nd4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 f6 12.Bd3 Bd6 13.Qh5+ Bf7 14.Qg4 0-0 15.Qf5 g6 16.Qxf6 Qxf6 17.Bxf6 d4 18.Bxd4 Bxa2 19.Ra1 (27) Parligras,M (2657)-Gaehwiler,G (2414) 140/(18) Skopje 2019;

**D)** 4...Bd6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Re8 7.Rc1 a6 8.d4 b6 9.g3 Bb7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Bg2 Bb4+ 13.Bc3 Ba3 14.Ra1 a5 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Qc2 Nf6 Olivier,P (2215)-Anton Guijarro,D (2651) 150/(3) Struga 2021 ]

**4...dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.h4 Ke7 14.Rh3 Nc6 15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Rd3 Rd8 17.Rxd8**

[ 17.e5 seems wilder. Ba6 18.exf6+ Kxf6 19.Rf3+ ]

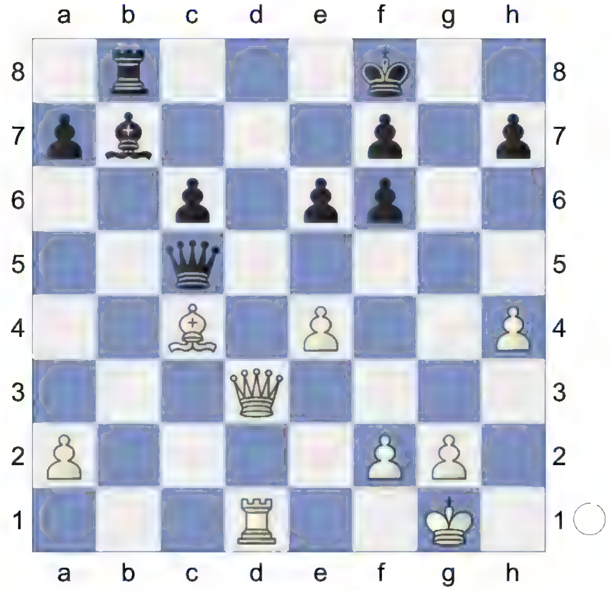
**17...Qxd8 18.Qb3!?** A completely new direction for the queen - White is not in a hurry to get the h7-pawn. At first he is going to stop Black's development and, of course, would not hesitate to disturb Black's king if such a possibility occurs. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'A completely new direction for the queen - White is not in a hurry to get the h7-pawn. At first he is going to stop Black's development and, of course, would not hesitate to disturb Black's king if such a possibility occurs.'

**18...Qb6** The position is equal.

[ 18...Qd6 , as was played between the same opponents in the previous stage of the same tournament, is also worthy of consideration. However, it does not fully equalise: Scherbakov, Ruslan: ', as was played between the same opponents in the previous stage of the same tournament, is also worthy of consideration. However, it does not fully equalise:' 19.Rd1 Rb8

**A)** 20.Qf3!? also came to mind but Black seems fine after Qc5 21.Qd3

**A1)** 21...Bb7?! 0.92/20 21...Kf8 0.07 22.Kg1 Kf8 2.05/21 ( *22...Qe5±* 1.21/20 )



23.Rb1!±;

**A2)** 21...Kf8! 22.e5!? Qxe5 23.Qxh7 White threatens Qh8+ and mate. Ke7∞;

**B)** 20.Rxd6 Rxb3 21.Rxc6 Rb1+ 22.Ke2 Bd7 23.Rc7 a5 24.Ra7 Rb2+ 25.Ke3 a4 Repels Bb3 26.g4 Kd6 27.f4⩲ with a small advantage for White in this endgame, Sasikiran - Gustafsson, Canarias en Red final (10) playchess.com 2004. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'with a small advantage for White in this endgame, Sasikiran - Gustafsson, Canarias en Red final

(10) playchess.com 2004.' ]

**19.Qa3+ c5 20.Qe3!?** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'In the game Sasikiran - Rabiega, Canarias en Red final (9) playchess.com 2004, which was actually the first of these 3 games by Sasikiran, White tried'

[ In the game Sasikiran - Rabiega, Canarias en Red final (9) playchess.com 2004, which was actually the first of these 3 games by Sasikiran, Whitetried 20.Be2 Qb4 21.Qd3 Qd4 22.Qa3 Qb4 23.Qg3 e5 ( *23...Bd7!? deserved attention*) 24.Bc4 Hoping for Qg8. Be6 25.Bxe6 Kxe6 26.Kg1 ( *26.Qf3!?* ) 26...Rd8 and here 27.Qf3 could have secured good compensation for the pawn but a draw certainly was the most likely result. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'could have secured good compensation for the pawn but a draw certainly was the most likely result.' ]

**20...Bd7** 0.36/21

[ 20...Bb7= 0.00/23 ]

**21.e5!⩲** White is in a hurry to act. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'However, the prophylactic'

[However, the prophylactic 21.Kg1!?⩲ -0.14/19 21.e5 0.22 deserved serious attention. Black couldn't defend everything anyway but White could win a pawn in a better situation. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'deserved serious attention. Black couldn't defend everything anyway but White could win a pawn in a better situation. ' ]

**21...fxe5 22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Qxe5 Rc8** 0.85/21

[ 23...Rd8= 0.20/18 keeps the balance. ]

**24.h5** 0.00/25 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In case of'. White is much more active.

[In case of 24.Qh8+!? 0.07/5 24.Kg1 0.63 Ke7 25.Qxh7 Black was going to play Qb2⩲ with counterplay. However, White's chances were still slightly better. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with counterplay. However, White's chances were still slightly better.'. Prevents Qg7 ]

[Better is 24.Kg1± 0.85/21 ]

**24...h6?!** 1.41/23 This is dubious.

[ 24...Qb8!? deserved serious attention:

A) 25.Qh8+? -0.41/5 25.Qg5 0.00 failed to Ke7 26.Qxh7 -2.69/20 ( *⌓26.Qc3* -1.98/21 ) 26...Rh8-+ 27.Qe4 Rxh5;

B) 25.Qg5 Bb5!? 26.Bxb5 Qxb5+ 27.Kg1 Qd3 and Black should have held this position. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and Black should have held this position.' ]

[ 24...Qb8= 0.00/25 remains equal. 25.Qg5 Bb5 ]

**25.Qf6!±** Trying to get more benefit. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black could defend in case of'

[ Black could defend in case of 25.Qh8+ 0.90/5 25.Qf6 1.71 Ke7 26.Qxh6 Qb2⩲ 1.02/21 ( *26...Rg8⩲* 0.66/20 deserves consideration. *)*]

**25...Ke8**

[ 25...Kg8 2.56/22 25...Qd6 1.64

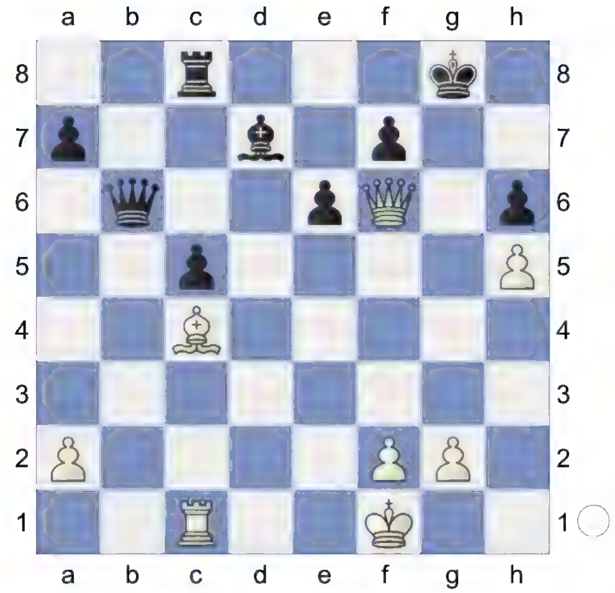
(Diagram)

26.Kg1! Qd6 27.Qxh6± 1.96/17 was clearly better for White. ( *⌓27.Rc3* 3.27/23 *Qd4 28.Rg3+ Kf8 29.Qxh6+ Ke7 30.Qc1* )]

**26.Qxh6**

[ 26.Kg1!? 0.17/20 26.Qxh6 1.63 was still worthy of consideration. ]

**26...Qb2?** 3.22/15



[ 26...Qd6 1.63/21 ]

**27.Rd1?** 0.32/21

[ 27.Qg5+- 3.22/15 ]

**27...Qc3?** 2.74/20 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The exchange of the bishops by'

[ The exchange of the bishops by 27...Ba4 1.31/23 27...Bb5 0.27 28.Re1 Bxe6! is the strong threat. Bb5 29.Bxb5+ Qxb5+ 30.Kg1± couldn't make Black's life easier. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'couldn't make Black's life easier.' ]

[ 27...Bb5± 0.32/21 28.Bxb5+ Qxb5+ 29.Ke1 ( *29.Kg1 Qe2=* ) 29...Qb4+ 30.Qd2 Ke7 ]

**28.Qf4+-** aiming for Kg1. **28...Ba4 29.Rc1** 1.44/19

[ 29.Bxe6+- 2.77/22 Bb5+ 30.Kg1 fxe6 31.Qe4 ]

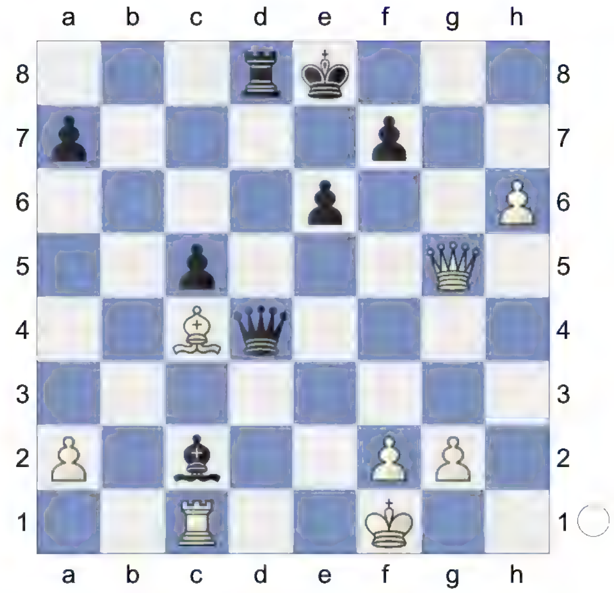
**29...Qd4± 30.Qg5↑** Thanks to his precise play White has achieved a clear advantage. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Thanks to his precise play White has achieved a clear advantage.'. Strongly threatening Qg8+. White is on the roll. **30...Rd8?!** 3.64/17 A mistake that costs the game.

[ 30...Kd7!? 2.59/21 30...Qd8 1.62 was probably stronger, opening the 8th rank for the rook. ]

[ 30...Qd8± 1.53/21 31.Qg7 Qh4 32.Qg8+ Skewer Ke7 33.Qxc8 Qh1+ 34.Ke2 Qxc1 35.Qxc5+ Ke8 ]

**31.h6+-** Now White is just winning.

**31...Bc2?!**



This move loses the bishop but it was already very difficult for Black to fight against White's passed pawn. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This move loses the bishop but it was already very difficult for Black to fight against White's passed pawn.' **32.Kg1!** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Missing' **32...Bg6**

[ 32...Qxc4 4.63/23 32...Bf5 3.18 failed to 33.h7 Qd4 34.Rxc2+- ]

[ but 32...Bf5!? seemed more stubborn. ]

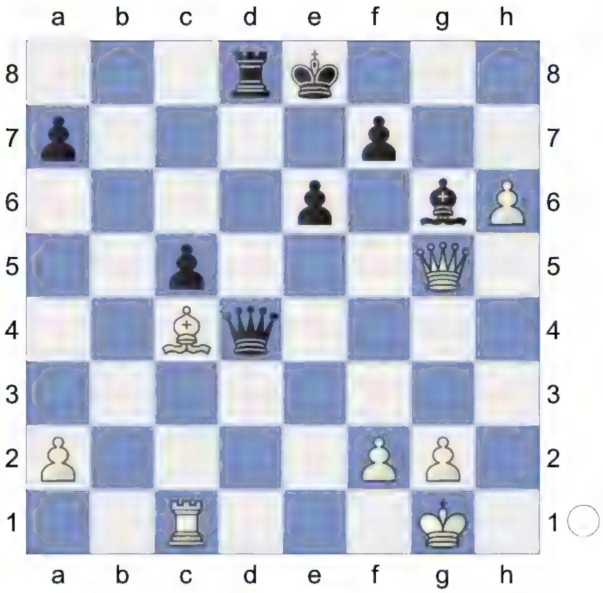
[ Reject 32...Qxc4 33.h7 Qc3 34.Rxc2 ]

(Diagram)

Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'but' **33.Bxe6!** Deflection **33...Qd2**

[ 33...Kf8 34.Bb3 ]

**34.Qxd2**



[ 34.Qxc5 fxe6 35.h7 Bxh7 36.Qh5+ Kf8 37.Qc5+ Kf7 38.Qh5+ Kf6-+ ]

**34...Rxd2** Endgame. KRB-KRB **35.Bb3 Rd4 36.Rxc5 Rh4 37.Ra5 Rxh6 38.Rxa7** So White has finally obtained a technically winning position with two extra pawns. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'So White has finally obtained a technically winning position with two extra pawns.' **38...Rh4 39.f3 Rd4 40.Ra5 Rd2 41.Re5+ Kf8 42.g4?!** Creating unnecessary problems for himself. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It was better to advance the king first by'

[ It was better to advance the king first by 42.Kh2 since Black couldn't get any counterplay by Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'since Black couldn't get any counterplay by' Bd3? 5.83/22 because of ( ⌓42...f6 3.36/21 ) 43.Rd5+- ]

**42...Rb2 43.f4** 1.86/21

[ ⌓43.Rc5 3.57/22 ]

**43...Bb1** 2.73/22

[ 43...Bc2 1.86/21 might work better. ]

**44.Ra5 Be4 45.Ra7 Rg2+ 46.Kf1 Rxg4** Here a draw was agreed although White still has a technically winning position after capturing on f7. Perhaps he just had very less time as it was only a blitz game... Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Here a draw was agreed although White still has a technically winning position after capturing on f7. Perhaps he just had very less time as it was only a blitz game...'.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.33/Black=0.57. An unexpected result.

**½-½**

**D39**

☐ **Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro** **2591**
■ **Horvath,Adam** **2488**
Cappelle op 28th (6) 08.03.2012
*[Ramirez Alvarez,Alejandro, MH]*

I was in a very experimental mood in Cappelle. Although I don't normally play this variation, I didn't want to reveal what I had prepped in my main openings because of the upcoming US Championship. This allowed me to play a lot of fun chess - and I even tried 1. e4! this event.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

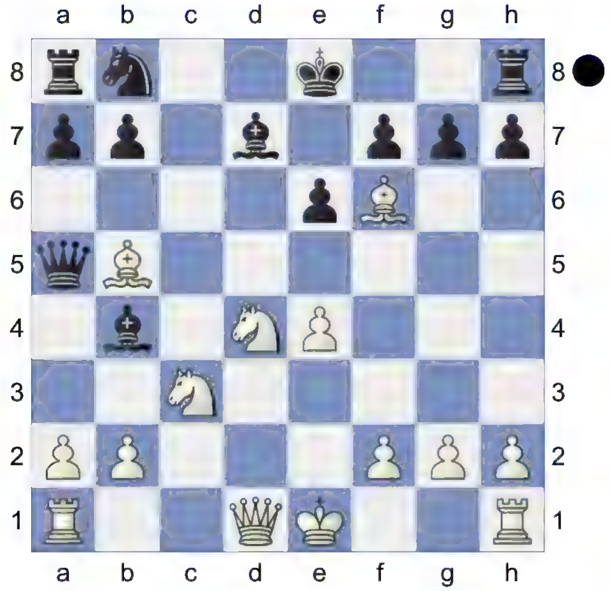
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qa5 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxf6!** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



'. aiming for Bxd7+. **10...Bxc3+**

[ 10...Bxb5 was tried in Kramnik-Anand, Bonn Wch (8) 2008. ]

**11.bxc3** White is slightly better.

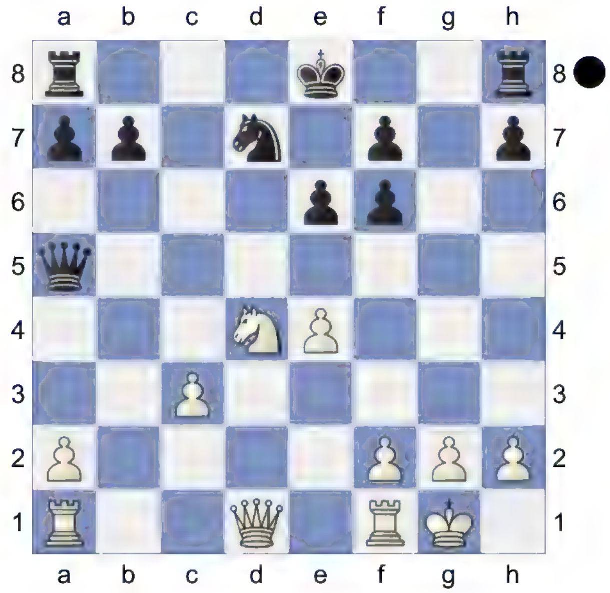
**11...gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 ( *12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+-* ) 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+**

[ Another important direction is 12.Qb3 ]

**12...Nxd7 13.0-0** Althuogh this has been played many times, we were both quite unfamiliar with the variation. At this point both my opponent and I had spent a considerable amount of time. However I felt very refreshed analyzing this position over the board. I felt that I had a lot of pluses and although I knew many top GMs played this position as Black, I liked my chances. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram



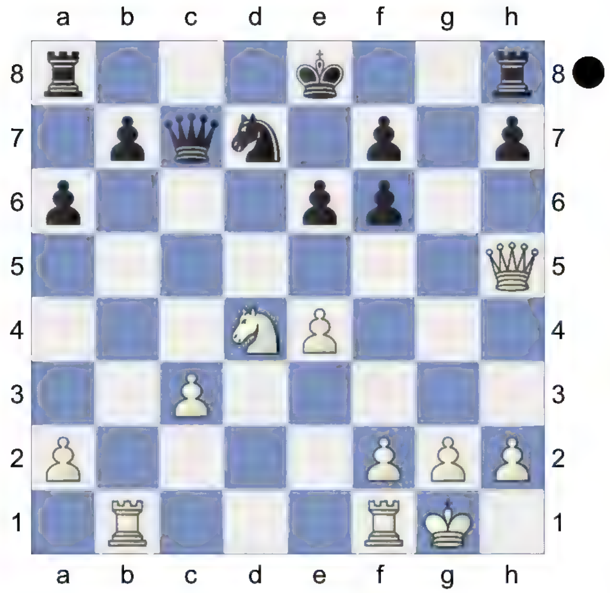
' **13...a6**

[ 13...Qxc3!? 0.64/19 13...Qe5 0.24 14.Qa4 0.27/21 ( *14.Rb1± 0.64/19 Rd8 15.Nb5* ) 14...0-0 , which was little known until recently, was tested in a couple of important games in 2010-2012. ]

**14.Rb1 Qc7 15.Qh5** Preventing castling. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

[ 15.Qd2 is an interesting possibility that didn't even cross my mind. ]

(Diagram)



' **15...Qe5** It was imperative to activate the knight.

[ Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'The main continuation is' 15...Nc5 has been seen at the top level many times, but would you risk playing this position with black? Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'as Naiditsch played against Anand, Kramnik and Leko, among others.' ]

[ 15...Ke7 1.15/21 15...Nc5 0.45 16.f4!↑ was Gustafsson-Naiditsch, Dortmund 2008. ]

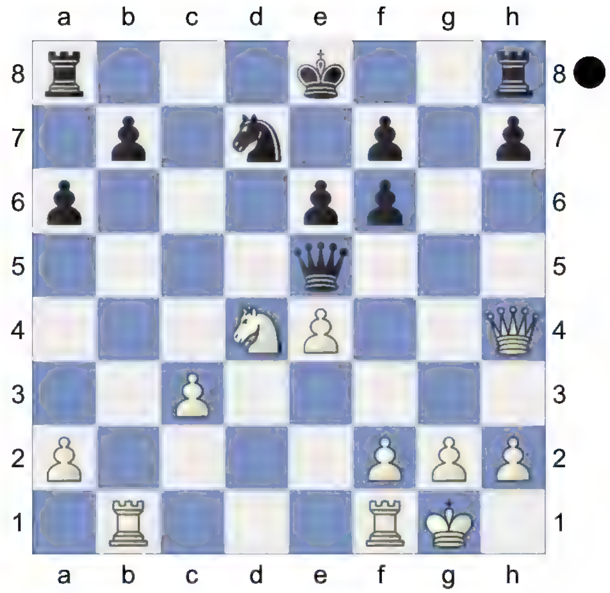
**16.Qh4** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!' Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

(Diagram)

'. White is more active. **16...0-0-0** 1.33/20

[ Black has problems also after 16...Nc5 1.20/20 16...Qg5 0.68 17.f4! Qxe4 18.Rfe1

**A)** 18...Qd5 1.39/20 18...Qg6 0.65 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Rb2!↑ Ne4 1.99/23 *( 20...Qd6±* 1.24/23



was worth a try.*)* 21.Qh4!+- Nxc3 22.f5! Rd8 23.Rd2± Kozul-Diermair, Graz 2009;

**B)** 18...Qg6 19.f5 Qg5 20.Qxg5 *( 20.Qf2!?* 0.16/25 20.Qxg5 1.00 *⊿Nd3 21.Nxe6! )* 20...fxg5 21.fxe6↑ Gonzalez Garcia-Oms Pallisse, Barcelona 2011. ]

[After 16...Rc8 1.22/20 16...Qc7 0.86 as in Flumbort-A.Horvath, Hungary 2005 White can continue 17.Rxb7 Rxc3 18.Nf3↑ ]

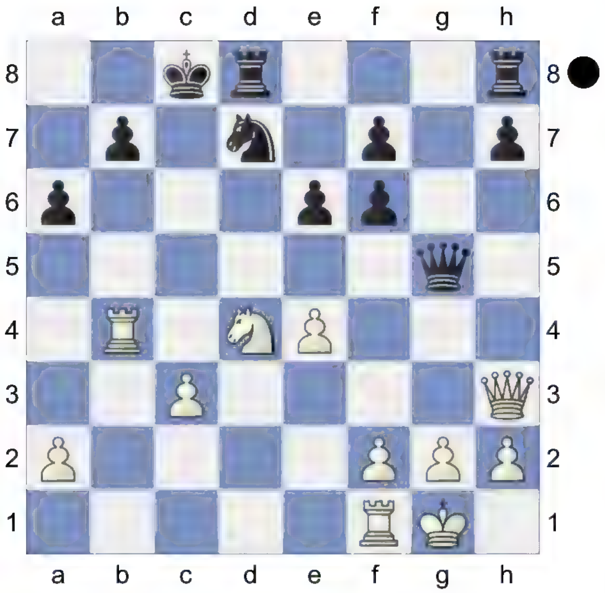
[ 16...Qg5± 0.59/20 17.Qxg5 fxg5 ]

**17.Rb4!±** I was very proud of this move. The rooks will be doubled on the b-file, but more importantly the rook is swinging to c4, where it will attack the bastion of Black's defense: the N on c5. **17...Qg5** **18.Qh3** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

(Diagram)

' **18...Qd2?** 3.11/22 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '?'. This costs Black the game.

[ Black is worse after, for example, 18...Rhg8 19.g3 with the idea of.



Threatens to win with Rfb1! h5 20.Rfb1 Nc5 21.Rc4! , but the text is simply wrong. ]

[ 18...Rhg8± 1.43/23 ]

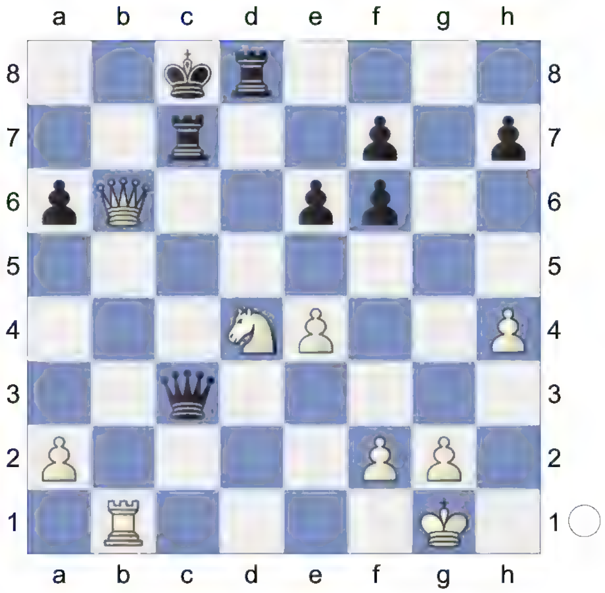
**19.Rfb1!+- Nc5 20.Rc4!** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!'. Black must now prevent Qh5. **20...b6** An unfortunate necessity. **21.Qh5** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '!'

[ 21.Rxb6? Qe1# ]

**21...Rd7** Here I had a great psychological dilemma. Of course, it is very tempting to play 22. Rxc5+ Rc7 23. Qb6 or 23. Qd6. However, I remembered something that happened recently. I was teaching a chess camp with IM Greg Shahade in Arizona to a group of extremely talented girls from the US, and I remembered that Greg insisted to all of them that if you had a strong attack, it was always better to take the route that had equal material instead of trying to sacrifice without seeing a clear win. Since I didn't find such a win, I started looking for alternatives... **22.Rcb4!** And found this. Actually this is the only winning move in the position, Black is defenseless against the threat on b6. The move is illogical at first as it unpins the knight and doesn't keep the threat on it, but it turns out that Black is helpless. Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'Diagram

[ 22.Rxc5+? 0.00/24 22.Rcb4 2.50 bxc5 23.Qxc5+ Rc7 24.Qb6 -0.36/23 ( *24.Qd6* And now Rb8+! would win. *Rd8* is a similar situation.; *24.Qd6=* 0.00/24 *Rd8 25.Qxa6+ Kd7 26.h3* )

**A)** 24...Qxc3? 0.94/24 24...Kd7 -0.67 25.h4 Rd8? 4.56/20 ( *25...Kd7±* 1.10/22 is a better chance. ) 26.Nxe6!+-;



**B)** 24...Kd7∓ -0.36/23 25.Qxa6 Rhc8;

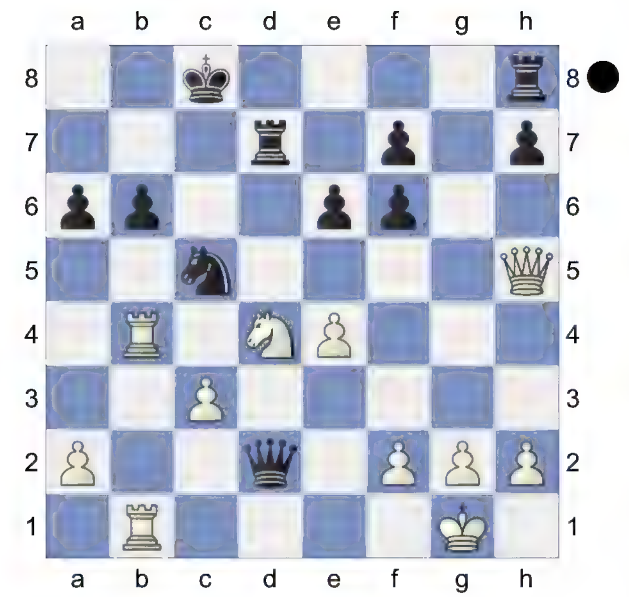
**C)** 24...Rd8! 0.00/23 25.Qxa6+ Kd7∞ And Black survives. ]

[ 22.Rxb6? Qe1# ]

(Diagram)

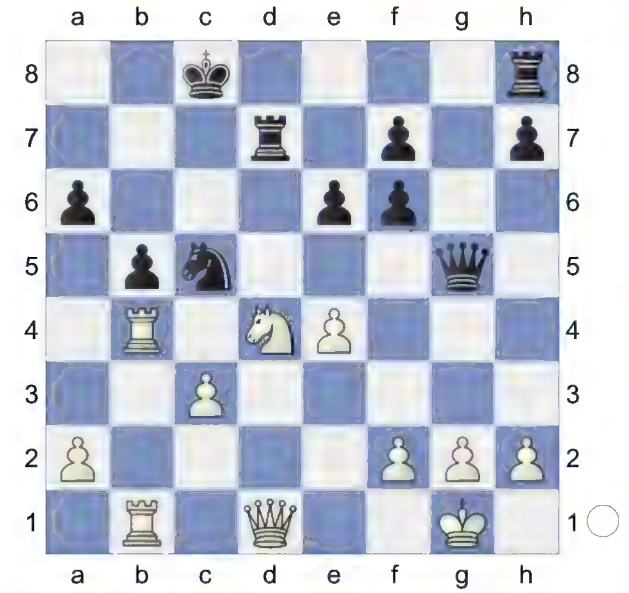
' **22...Rb7** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '?!'

[ 22...Qxc3 3.83/20 22...Qg5 2.50



23.Rxb6! Qxd4 24.Rb8+ Kc7 25.Rxh8+- and there are no back rank tricks, so white is simply winning. ]

[ Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'More stubborn is' 22...Qg5 Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): 'but in the long run Black should not survive also here after' 23.Qd1 ( *23.Qf3* ) 23...b5



24.a4!+- ]

[ 22...Nd3 23.Rxb6 Intending Rb8+ and mate. Qxf2+ 24.Kh1 And Black has no real threats, while his position is collapsing. ]

[Worse is 22...Nxe4 23.Rxb6 ( *23.Ne2?* gets mated. *Qd1+* Back Rank *24.Rxd1 Rxd1#* ) 23...Qxf2+ 24.Kh1+- ]

**23.Rxb6** Mikhail Golubev (www.chesstoday.net): '+-' **23...Qxc3** 6.35/20

[If 23...Rxb6? 7.12/18 23...Qg5 3.87 24.Qxc5+ ]

[ ⌓23...Qg5 3.99/22 24.Rc6+ Kb8 ]

**24.Rxb7** Remove Defender **24...Nxb7** **25.Qxf7** Make sure to look in the future CBM many top games from this event. I must say that I saw some amazing tactics played in this event, and the organizers are very dilligent about inputing all the games! Definitely a treat. Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.59

**1-0**

**D39**

□ **Gupta,Abhijeet** **2584**

■ **Naumann,Alexander** **2522**

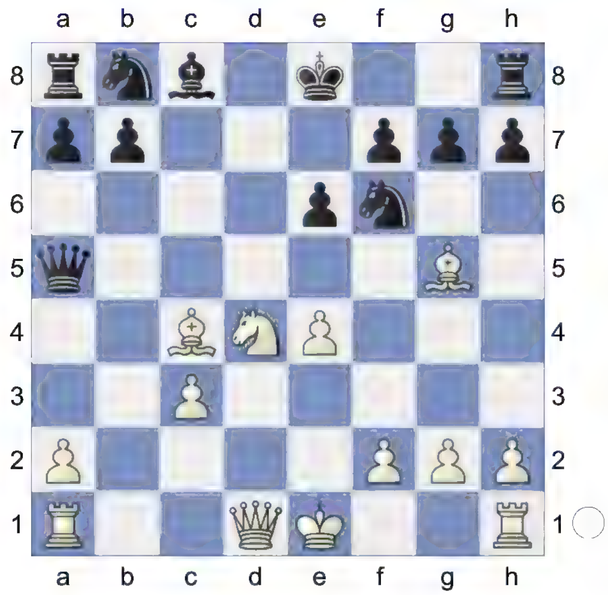
Bad Wiessee (7) 05.11.2009

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Compared to the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2009, here Black secured his K-side pawns but it allowed White to activate all his pieces. Alexander Naumann has already used this approach to hold the balance earlier this year but Abhijeet Gupta came up with a new idea on move 29, which gave Black some problems. Analysis show that they were not very dangerous, but some precise, and sometimes not quite obvious, moves were required...

Compared to the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2009, here Black secured his K-side pawns but it allowed

White to activate all his pieces. Alexander Naumann has already used this approach to hold the balance earlier this year but Abhijeet Gupta came up with a new idea on move 29, which gave Black some problems. Analysis show that they were not very dangerous, but some precise, and sometimes not quite obvious, moves were required... Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Compared to the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2009, here Black secured his K-side pawns but it allowed White to activate all his pieces. Alexander Naumann has already used this approach to hold the balance earlier this year but Abhijeet Gupta came up with a new idea on move 29, which gave Black some problems. Analysis show that they were not very dangerous, but some precise, and sometimes not quite obvious, moves were required...'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Diagram



' **10.Bb5+**

[ 10.Nb5 is an interesting pawn sacrifice. Nxe4

**A)** 11.Qd4 leads to a perpetual check after 0-0! 12.Qxe4 a6 13.Be7 *( 13.Bd3 f5= )* 13...axb5 14.Bb4 Qc7 15.Bxf8 *( 15.Bxb5 Bd7=* Karpov-Timman, Jakarta 1993. *)* 15...Kxf8 16.Bb3 Qxc3+ 17.Ke2 Qb2+= Kempinski-Macieja, Achaea 2012.;

**B)** 11.Bf4 0-0 12.0-0 Nc6 13.Bc7!? *( 13.Qf3 e5 14.Qxe4 exf4 15.Qxf4 Be6 16.Bxe6 Qxb5=* Krasenkow-Maksimenko, Warsaw 2012. *)* 13...b6 14.Qf3 f5 White has a clear compensation for a pawn, but perhaps Black can defend, though he cannot confuse lines:

**B1)** 15.Rfb1 Rf7!= *( 15...a6? 16.Nd4±* Miton-Neubauer, Porto Carras 2011. *)*;

**B2)** 15.Rfe1

**B2a)** 15...Rf7? was played in Riazantsev-Macieja, Plovdiv 2012 and now, White could have won with 16.Rxe4 fxe4 17.Qxe4 a6 *( 17...Bd7 18.Rd1+- )* 18.Bd3! *( 18.Qxc6 axb5= )* 18...g6 19.Qxc6 axb5 20.Bxg6!! hxg6 21.Qe8++-;

**B2b)** 15...a6= Epishin-Maksimenko, Graz 1998. ]

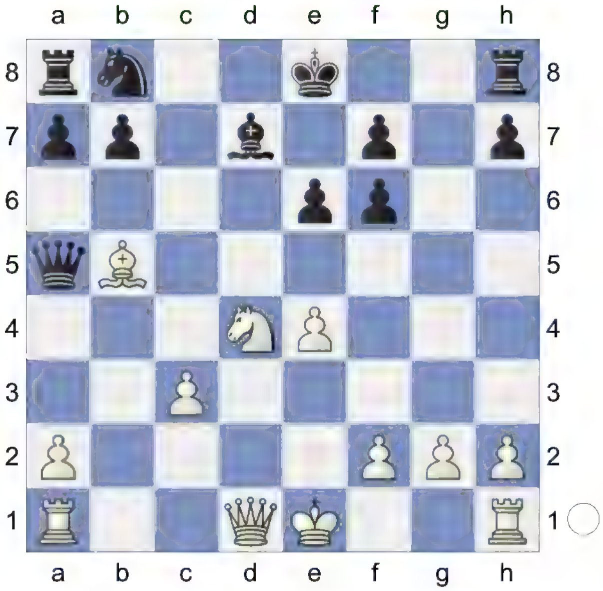
[ 10.Bxf6 This line has been abandoned by White. Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 *( 11...Qxc4+? 12.Kg1±* Alekhine-Munoz, Sabadell 1945.*)* 12.Rc1 Qa5 *( 12...Qb4? 13.Bxe6±* Ribli-Beliavsky, Barcelona 1989.*)* 13.h4 *( 13.Bxe6?? Bxe6 14.Nxe6 Qa6+-+; 13.Bb5+ Ke7 14.e5* leads to a perpetual check after *fxe5 15.Qh5 Nd7 16.Qg5+ Kf8 17.Rxc8+*

*Rxc8 18.Bxd7 Qd8! 19.Nxe6+ fxe6 20.Qh6+=* Ribli-Tukmakov, Germany 1988. *)* 13...Ke7 14.Rh3 Rd8 15.Rd3 Nc6 16.Nxc6+ bxc6 17.Rxd8 Qxd8 18.Qh5 Qd4 19.Be2 Rb8= Dreev-Janjgava, Vilnius 1988. ]

**10...Bd7** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'This is another frequently played move.'

**11.Bxf6 gxf6** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Diagram

[ In comparison to the Anand-Kramnik, Bonn 2008 game, after the exchange on c3, 11...Bxb5 cannot be played due to 12.Nxb5 gxf6 13.Rb1± Ipatov-Yasin, Konya 2012. ]



' **12.Bxd7+**

[ 12.Qb3 seems to be insufficient to create problems for Black. Bxb5 13.Nxb5 0-0 14.0-0 Nc6 15.c4 Rad8 16.Qg3+ *( 16.c5 Nd4 17.Nxd4 Rxd4 18.Qg3+ Kh8 19.Qf4 Qxc5 20.Qxf6+ Kg8=* Schandorff-P.H. Nielsen, Esbjerg 2003.*)* 16...Kh8 17.Qh4 Kg7 18.f4 Qd2 19.e5 *( 19.Rf3 Rg8!=* Lalith-Vishnu, Chennai 2008.*)* 19...fxe5 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Qf6+ Kg8= Mamedyarov-P.H. Nielsen, Wijk aan Zee 2005. ]

**12...Nxd7 13.0-0 a6**

[ 13...Qxc3 ]

**14.Rb1 Qc7** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Black has a good structure for an endgame, but the king is in danger in the middle game.'

[ 14...Nc5? 15.Qf3+- Radjabov-Toth, Biel 2000. ]

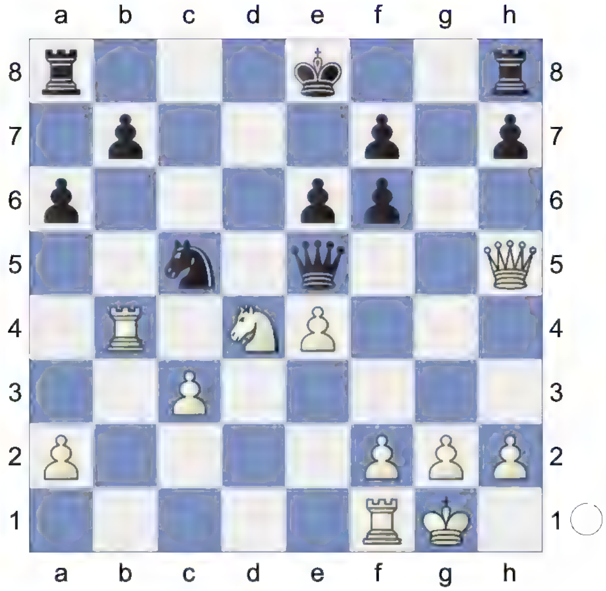
**15.Qh5**

[ 15.Qd2 is another possible try, with a variety of possible answers. Based on the very limited number of available games, it is even difficult to be sure which of them should be recommended. ]

**15...Nc5 16.Rb4** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'The rook goes to c4, protecting the e4 pawn at the same time.'

[ Actually a much more modest move, 16.Rfe1!? desires attention, but it has not been widely checked in practice, so it is difficult to judge what its real value is. ]

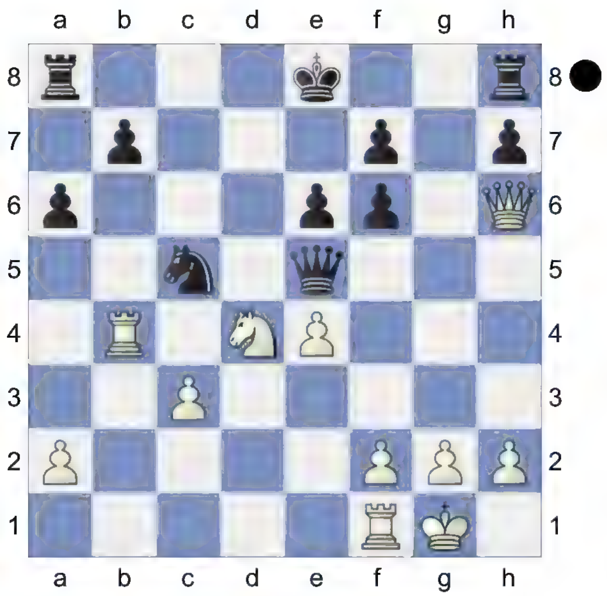
**16...Qe5** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Diagram



' **17.Qh6** RR: '*

[ 17.Qh4 Rd8! *( 17...Qg5 18.Qh3* is better for White - see 17.Qh6 Qg5

18.Qh3 ) 18.Nf3! ( *18.f4* is not good enough due to *Qxe4 19.Re1 Qd3 20.Qxf6 Rg8 21.Nf5 Rd7 22.Rd4 Qxc3 23.Red1 exf5 24.Qe5+ Kf8 25.Qb8+ Kg7 26.Qe5+=* Gyimesi-Landa, Germany 2011.) 18...Qxc3 19.e5! That's an advantage of having the queen on h4 instead of h6. Rg8 20.Qxh7 Ke7 21.Rf4 f5 22.Rd4!? ( *22.Qh4+ Ke8 23.g3 Ne4=* Gelfand-Aronian, Nalchik 2009. ) 22...Rxd4 ( *22...Rxg2+ 23.Kxg2 Rxd4 24.Nxd4 Qxd4* Kozul-Cs.Horvath, Austria 2009. *25.Qh3!N Nd3 26.Qe3 Qd5+ 27.Qf3 Nf4+ 28.Kg3 Qc4 29.Qxb7+ Kf8 30.Rb1* and Black keeps chances, but cannot force a draw.) 23.Qxg8 Rd8 24.Qg5+ Ke8 25.h4 Ne4 26.Qg8+ Ke7 27.Qg7 Qc4 28.Rb1! ( *28.h5 Qe2! 29.h6 Rd1 30.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 31.Kh2 Nxf2 32.Kg3 Ne4+ 33.Kh2=* ) 28...b5 29.Ng5 Nxg5 30.Qxg5+ Ke8 31.h5 Qc2= ]



' **17...Rc8** Macieja,Bartlomiej: '!'

[ 17...Qg5 18.Qh3! Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'is better for White - see 17.Qh6 Qg5 18.Qh3' h5 ( *18...Rg8? 19.g3 h5 20.Rc4! Rc8 21.Nxe6!! fxe6 22.Rxc5 Rxc5 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Rd1+-* Meier-Acs, Paks 2009.; *18...Qe5 19.Re1 Rd8 20.Qe3 Rg8 21.Nf3 Qc7 22.Rd4±* Gelfand-Jakovenko, Moscow 2007.) 19.f4 ( *19.Rc4 Rc8 20.Nb3 b6 21.f4 Qg4 22.Qe3 Rg8 23.Qf2⩲* Moiseenko-Macieja, Barbera del Valles 2009.) 19...Qg4 20.Qe3 Rg8 21.Rb2! Rc8 Sasikiran-Macieja, Warsaw 2008, and White can obtain the advantage with 22.h3⩲ ]

**18.Nf3 Qxc3 19.Rd4 Ke7 20.e5 Nd7 21.Qh4** Macieja,Bartlomiej: '!' **21...Rhg8 22.Kh1** Macieja,Bartlomiej: '!' **22...b5 23.h3 Rc4 24.Rxd7+ Kxd7 25.Qxf6 Ke8** The more restrained approach. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: 'The more restrained approach." RR: 'N' 'N'

[ 25...Qd3!? has been considered in the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/ Dortmund 2009. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'has been considered in the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/ Dortmund 2009.' RR: 'Ü 106/128 ↑ 106/128' ]

**26.Rd1**

[ 26.Ng5 did not promise much: Rxg5 27.Qxg5 Qd3 28.Kg1 Rc2 and White's rook could not be activated, Solomon - Wittmann, Budapest 2009. However, Black still had to be careful as his king was not safe. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'and White's rook could not be activated, Solomon - Wittmann, Budapest 2009. However, Black still had to be careful as his king was not safe.' ]

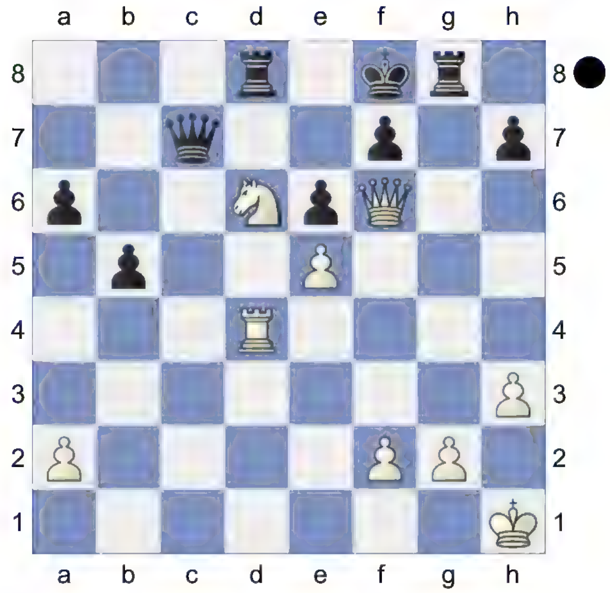
**26...Rc8 27.Ng5 Qc7** Compared to the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2009, Black has secured his pawns, but it allowed White to get all his pieces to very active positions. Macieja, Bartlomiej: '=' Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Siebrecht-Neumann, Germany 2009.' Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Compared to the game Kramnik - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2009, Black has secured his pawns, but it allowed White to get all his pieces to very active positions.'' **28.Ne4 Kf8 29.Nd6!** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: '!''

[ Curiously enough, Alexander Naumann has already played this position! In the game Siebrecht - Naumann, GER-chT 2009, White agreed to the repetition of moves: 29.Ng5 Ke8 30.Ne4 Kf8 31.Ng5 Ke8 ]

**29...Rd8?!** This natural move makes Black's task more difficult. The rook is not actually doing much on d8 but it may come under attack. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: '?!' R.Scherbakov: 'This natural move makes Black's task more difficult. The rook is not actually doing much on d8 but it may come under attack.''

[ It seems that Black should have retreated the rook to safety by playing Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'It seems that Black should have retreated the rook to safety by playing' 29...Rb8! and after 30.Rd4 Rg7! and it's not easy, if possible, for White to get real benefit from his powerful position. However, he could still try: Macieja, Bartlomiej: 'and it's not easy, if possible, for White to get real benefit from his powerful position. However, he could still try:' 31.h4! *( 31.Rg4* 0.00/28 31.h4 0.43 *Rxg4 32.hxg4* would only secure the perpetual: *b4* Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: '='' *33.Qh8+ Ke7 34.Qf6+ Kf8= )* 31...Kg8 32.g3 , slowly improving the position. However, it would still be not easy to make it harmful for Black. Perhaps then White would think about shifting the knight to f6 by Qf6-f4 and Nd6-e4, followed by h4-h5, Qf4-h6 and Rd4-g4... Macieja, Bartlomiej: ', slowly improving the position. However, it would still be not easy to make it harmful for Black. Perhaps then White would think about shifting the knight to f6 by Qf6-f4 and Nd6-e4, followed by h4-h5, Qf4-h6 and Rd4-g4...' ]

**30.Rd4!** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Diagram



R.Scherbakov: '!'' **30...Rg6?** 3.11/20 Black already faced a real problem and this careless move just loses the game. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Black already faced a real problem and this careless move just loses the game.''

[ Black's position was probably defendable but he was already walking on the edge: Macieja, Bartlomiej: 'Here Black should play R. Scherbakov: 'Black's position was probably defendable but he was already walking on the edge:''

30...Qc1+! Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R. Scherbakov: '!'' 31.Kh2 Rd7 Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'N!' 32.Rg4!? ( *32.Nxf7 Rg6!* Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R. Scherbakov: '='' *33.Qh8+ Rg8 34.Qf6 Rg6=; 32.Rf4 Rg6 33.Qh8+ Rg8 34.Qf6 Rg6=* ) 32...Qd2! ( *32...Rxg4? 33.hxg4 Kg8 34.f4+-* ) 33.Ne4 ( *33.Ne4!? Qc1□ 34.Nd6=* ) 33...Qc1!

**A)** 34.Ng5 Rxg5! 35.Rxg5 Rd4! 36.g3 ( *36.Rg7!? Qf4+□ 37.g3 Qxf6 38.exf6=* ) 36...Rd1!=;

**B)** 34.Rxg8+ Kxg8 35.Qh4 Kf8 36.Nf6 Xg7 is the strong threat. Rd8! ( *36...Rd1??* 17.04/24 36...Rd8 0.10 *37.Qb4+ Kg7 38.Qg4+ Kf8 39.Qg8+ Ke7 40.Qe8#* )

**B1)** 37.Nxh7+ Kg7 38.Qxd8 ( *38.Nf6* And now Nh5+ would win. *Rh8∞* ) 38...Qf4+=;

**B2)** 37.Qb4+ Kg7 38.Qg4+ Kf8! 39.Nxh7+ Ke7

**B2a)** 40.Qh4+!? Ke8 ( *40...Kd7 41.Qf6=* ) 41.a4= ( *41.Nf6+ Kf8=* );

**B2b)** 40.Qb4+ Kd7 41.Qd6+ Kc8 42.Qxa6+ Kc7 43.Qa7+ Kc8! 44.Qxf7? -1.97/18 ( *44.Qa6+=* 0.00/31 *Kc7 45.Qa7+ Kc8 46.Nf8* ) 44...Rd7!-+ ( *44...Qc6?* 3.35/19 44...Rd7 -0.74 *45.Ng5+-* ) 45.Qg8+ ( *45.Qxe6* -2.78/24 45.Qg8+ -1.66 *Qf4+* ) 45...Kb7∞ 0.00/24 still with rather complicated play but here Black already seemed fine. For example, in the ending after Macieja, Bartlomiej: 'still with rather complicated play but here Black already seemed fine. For example, in the ending after' ( Black should play *45...Kc7!-+* -2.64/32 ...Qf4+ would now be deadly. *46.Kg3 Qh6* ) 46.Nf6? -3.19/20 ( *46.Qg4! Rxh7 47.Qe4+ Kb6 48.Qxh7 Qf4+=; 46.Qg4!=* 0.00/24 and White has nothing to worry. ) 46...Qf4+-+ 47.Qg3 Qxg3+ 48.Kxg3 Rd2 his rook would show its power. ]

[ 30...Qc1+± 0.76/21 31.Kh2 Rd7 ]

**31.Qh8++- Rg8**

[ 31...Ke7 32.Qxh7 Kf8 33.Kh2 Rxd6 34.exd6+- ( *34.Rxd6 Qe7+-* )]

**32.Qxh7 Qc1+ 33.Kh2 Rd7 34.g3+-** Now Black is just defenseless. Macieja, Bartlomiej: ' ±' Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'Now White is clearly better. He won quickly: R.Scherbakov: '+-' R.Scherbakov: 'Now Black is just defenseless.'' RR: ' ±' '±'

**34...Rg7 35.Qe4** Xf6 would kill now.

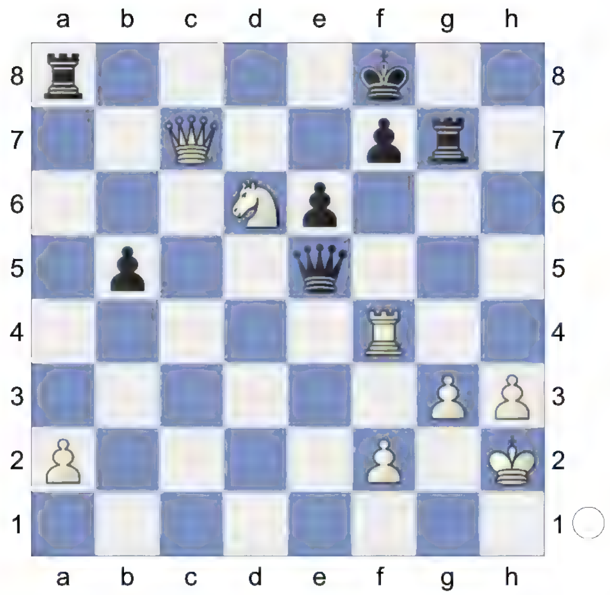
[ 35.Qh8+ Rg8 36.Qh4 Qg5± ]

**35...Qc7 36.Qh4!** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R. Scherbakov: '!''. Threatening mate with Xb4.

[ There was a good alternative: 36.Qa8+!? Rd8 37.Qxa6 but White certainly did not want to shift his queen to the opposite wing, even temporarily: Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'but White certainly did not want to shift his queen to the opposite wing, even temporarily:' Qc5 38.Qa5! Rb8 39.Rf4! Qxe5 40.Qc7 Ra8

(Diagram)

41.Qb7! Prevents f5 ( *41.Rxf7+?!* 0.20/20 41.Qb7 2.48 *Kg8* Δ ...Rg7xg3 Macieja,Bartlomiej: '/\ ... Rg7xg3' ) 41...Rd8 Strongly

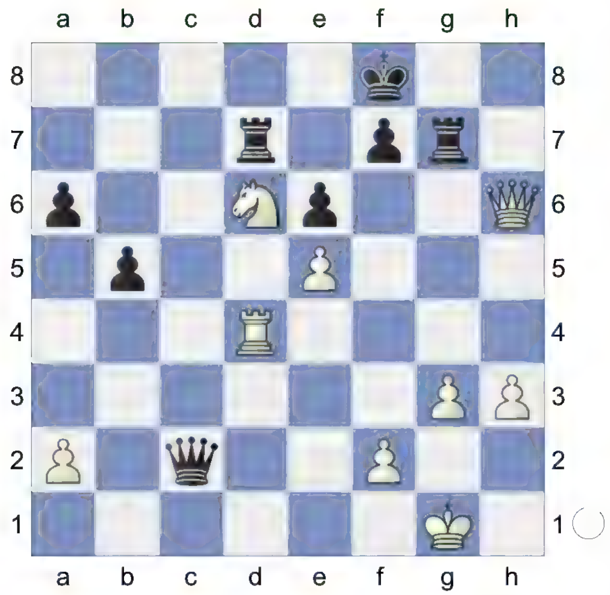


threatening ...f5. 42.Rxf7+ Kg8 43.Qe7 Ra8 44.Rxg7+ Qxg7 45.Qxe6++- and so on. ]

[ 36.Qa8+ Rd8 37.Qxa6 Rb8+- ]

**36...Qc2 37.Qf6**

[ 37.Qh8+ was more energetic: Rg8 38.Qh6+ Rg7 39.Kg2+- Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'could have been quicker. R.Scherbakov: '+-'' could have been quicker. Qc6+ *( 39...Qg6 40.Qc1 Qg5 41.Qc6+- )* 40.Kg1 Black must now prevent Rg4. Qc2



41.Nf5!!+- 2.50/20 *( ⌓41.Rh4! 4.49/21 )*]

**37...Rg6** aiming for ...Xg5.

[ 37...Rh7 was equally bad: 38.Rf4

**A)** 38...Qxa2 8.23/21 38...Kg8 4.42 39.Qg6! Rg7 40.Qh6 Re7 *( 40...Qc2 41.Qxe6+- )* 41.Qh8+ Rg8 42.Qf6+-;

**B)** 38...Kg8 Prevents Qxe6. 39.Ne4!? (or *39.Rg4+ Kf8 40.Qf3! Ra7* Prevents Qa8+ *41.Ne4+- )* 39...Rh5 Wards off Qg5+ 40.h4+- ]

**38.Qf3**

[Again, 38.Qh8+ Rg8 39.Qh6+ Rg7 40.Kg2 could have been quicker. ]

[ 38.Qh8+ Rg8 39.Qf6 Rg7 ]

**38...Qc7 39.Qh5 Qc2 40.Rf4**

[ 40.Qh8+ Rg8 41.Qf6 Rg6+- ]

**40...Kg8 41.Ne4!** A clever idea, which works in many cases. Macieja, Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: '!' R. Scherbakov: 'A clever idea, which works in many cases.'' **41...Qd1?** This makes White's task easy but Black was lost anyway. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R. Scherbakov: '?' R.Scherbakov: 'This makes White's task easy but Black was lost anyway.''

[The more tenacious 41...Rd4 did not give Black real hopes for survival after Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'did not give Black real hopes for survival after' 42.Nf6+ Rxf6 43.Rxf6+- ]

**42.Rg4!** Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R. Scherbakov: '!'' **42...Kf8**

[ 42...Rxg4 led to a quick mate after 43.Nf6+ ]

**43.Qh8+ Ke7 44.Qh4+** 14.96/20

[ ⌓44.Rxg6 #17/20 Qg1+ Decoy 45.Kxg1 Rd1+ 46.Kg2 Kd7 47.Qg7 Kc7 48.Qxf7+ *( 48.Rxe6 b4 49.Rxa6 Rd8 50.Qxf7+ Rd7 51.Ra7+* Skewer, Deflection *Kb8 52.Rxd7 Kc8 53.Qe8# )* 48...Kb6 49.Rxe6+ Rd6 50.Rxd6+ *( 50.Nxd6 Kc5 51.Nb7+*

Discovered Attack *Kd4 52.Rd6+ Kxe5 53.Qf4#; 50.exd6 Ka5 51.d7 Kb4 52.Rc6 Ka5 53.d8Q+ Kb4 54.Qb3# )* 50...Ka5 51.Qc7+ Deflection Ka4 52.Rxa6+ Kb4 53.Qc5# ]

**44...Kf8 45.Nf6** 6.50/19 Black resigned. Macieja,Bartlomiej: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Black resigned.''

[ ⌓45.Rxg6 #10/17 Qf3 46.Rh6 *( 46.Qh6+ Ke7 47.Qg5+ f6 48.exf6+ Kd8 49.Rg8+ Kc7 50.Qc5+ Kb7 51.Nd6+* Deflection *Rxd6 52.Rg7+ Rd7 53.Rxd7+ Kb8 54.Qf8# )* 46...Qh1+ Decoy 47.Kxh1 Rd1+ 48.Kh2 Ke8 49.Nc5 *( 49.Qf6 Rh1+ 50.Kxh1 Kd7 51.Qxf7+ Kc6 52.Qxe6+ Kc7 53.Rh7+ Kd8 54.Qg8# )* 49...Rh1+ 50.Kxh1 Kf8 51.Rh8+ Kg7 52.Qh7# ]

**1-0**

**D44**

☐ **Postny,Evgeny** **2661**
■ **Nikolov,Momchil** **2500**
Aghios Kirykos (6) 17.07.2008
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Evgeny Postny followed Kramnik's footsteps (Kramnik - Carlsen/Monaco rapid 2007) and achieved a comfortable edge. The novelty which followed was good enough to maintain the advantage while Black suddenly blundered.

D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.d4N**

[ 4.e3

A) 4...Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 b6 *( 6...c5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Nxd5 Qxd5 9.Bc4 Qd8 10.Qc2 Nc6 11.h4 h6 12.g4 Bf6 13.Ng5 Bxg5 14.hxg5 Qxg5 15.0-0-0 Nb4 16.f4 Qg6 17.Qxg6 fxg6 18.d4 b5 19.Bxb5 Bb7 20.Rhg1 Nxa2+ 21.Kb1* ½-½ (28) 7.Bb3 b5 8.a4 (2561)-Getz,A (2329) Paris mt 1913 (1.2)) 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 Bb7 9.Rc1 Nbd7 10.g3 Re8 11.Bg2 Bd6 12.0-0 a6 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Ne2 c6 15.Nf4 Rac8 16.Rfd1 a5 17.a4 Ba6 Lenderman,A (2600)-Yilmaz,M (2619) 136/(174) Reykjavik 2018;

B) 4...c6 5.Qc2 Nbd7 6.b3 Bd6 7.Bb2 Qe7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 e5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.d4 Nxc3 12.Qxc3 e4 13.Ne5 f5 14.Nxd7 Bxd7 15.g3 Be6 16.Bc4 Rfd8 17.Bxe6+ Qxe6 18.d5 Qe7 19.dxc6 1-0 (29) Burnett,A (2174)-Giulian Jackson,R (1935) BCF-ch Seniors 50 2024 (1);

C) 4...c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nxd5 exd5 7.b4 cxb4 8.Bb2 Nc6 9.Rc1 Be6 10.Nd4 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 f6 12.Bd3 Bd6 13.Qh5+ Bf7 14.Qg4 0-0 15.Qf5 g6 16.Qxf6 Qxf6 17.Bxf6 d4 18.Bxd4 Bxa2 19.Ra1 (27) Parligras,M (2657)-Gaehwiler,G (2414) 140/(18) Skopje 2019;

D) 4...Bd6 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 Re8 7.Rc1 a6 8.d4 b6 9.g3 Bb7 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 Bxd5 12.Bg2 Bb4+ 13.Bc3 Ba3 14.Ra1 a5 15.0-0 Nd7 16.Qc2 Nf6 Olivier,P (2215)-Anton Guijarro,D (2651) 150/(3) Struga 2021 ]

**4...dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 b5 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3**

[ 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Qc2 Rxg7∓ ]

**11...Bb7 12.Bg2! c5 13.0-0**

Nxg5! is the strong threat.

[ 13.axb5 cxd4 14.Ra4 a5= ]

**13...g4** White is better. **14.axb5! Rxg7**

[The principled 14...gxf3 1.63/20 14...Rxg7 0.71 was just considered in the game Kramnik - Carlsen/Monaco rapid 2007. ]

[ 14...gxf3 15.Bxf3 Qc7 16.d5 Bxc3 17.bxc3+- ]

**15.Ne5** A dynamic duo of knights.

[ 15.Nh4? 0.40/19 15.Ne5 1.49 is weaker. After Bxg2 16.Nxg2 cxd4 17.Ne4 it would have transposed into the game Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons/ Morelia Linares 2006. Here Black should have played the cautious. Strongly threatening Qa4. Be7!∞ , avoiding risky pawn advances, which may create targets for his opponent's pieces. ]

**15...Bxg2 16.Kxg2** aiming for dxc5. **16...cxd4**

[The inclusion of 16...f6?! 3.70/20 16...cxd4 1.30 17.Nxg4 cxd4 was even worse. After 18.Re1! dxc3 *( 18...e5?* 5.30/18 18...dxc3 3.27 *19.Nxe5! fxe5 20.Rxe5+ Kf8 21.Nd5→ )* 19.Rxe6+ Be7 Threatens to win with ...Qxd1. 20.Qf3 Nd7 21.Rd1 Qc8? 4.90/22 *( 21...cxb2* 2.21/19 *22.Nxf6+ Nxf6 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Qxf6 b1Q 25.Qxg7 Qb4 26.Qg6+ Kf8 )* 22.bxc3→ White's attack could hardly be parried. ]

**17.Qa4!** A series of energetic moves has helped White to develop the initiative. However, the play is still very concrete. **17...Bxc3**

[ 17...dxc3 2.07/22 17...Bxc3 1.30 was met by 18.b6+! Nd7 19.Rfd1 f6 *( 19...f5?* 4.21/20 19...f6 2.77 *20.Rxd7! Rxd7 21.Rd1! axb6 22.Qc6+- )* 20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.bxc3!

**A)** 21...Bxc3? 22.Rxd7 Qxd7 23.Qxd7+ Kxd7 24.Rxa7+ Kc6 25.Rxa8 Kxb6 26.Rc8 2.22/20 *( ⌓26.f3* 4.54/32 *)* 26...Kb5+- 27.f3!+-;

**B)** 21...Ba5!? 22.Rxd7 Qxd7 23.Qxa5± with a clear advantage. ]

**18.b6+! Kf8**

[Another retreat 18...Ke7 2.25/22 18...Kf8 1.02 was more risky: 19.bxc3 Qxb6 20.Kg1!? *( 20.Qxc4* 0.93/20 20.cxd4 2.14 *Nd7 21.cxd4± )* 20...a5 2.53/20 *( ⌓20...Qc7* 1.63/21 *)* 21.Qxc4 1.43/19 *( 21.Rab1!+-* 2.53/20 *Qc7 22.cxd4 )* 21...Nd7 2.44/22 *( 21...Qd6±* 1.43/19 keeps fighting. *22.cxd4 Nd7 )* 22.cxd4↑ 0.76/19 ( or *22.Nxd7 Kxd7 23.Rab1 Qa7 24.Rfd1 Ke7 25.Rxd4↑* with the initiative against Black's vulnerable king.; *22.Nxd7+-* 2.44/22 and the rest is easy. *Kxd7 23.Rfb1 )*]

**19.Qxc4!?** 0.55/23 A novelty, which most probably has been prepared for this game.

[ Momchil Nikolov already defended this position - in the game Delchev - Nikolov, BUL-ch Sunny Beach 2007, White unsuccessfully tried 19.Qb5? -0.13/22 19.bxc3 1.34 , missing a strong reply a5! *( 19...a6?* 3.21/21 19...a5 0.00 *20.Qc5+* and 21. b7 +-) 20.Qc5+ Ke8! 21.bxc3 Rfd1 would now be deadly. Qd5+! 22.Qxd5 exd5∞ and Black eventually won, Delchev - Nikolov, BUL-ch Sunny Beach 2007 ]

[ However, it is still a bit strange why he repeated such a risky line since White had another good option to claim the better chances: 19.bxc3!? Qxb6 20.Qxc4 0.64/18 ( White should try *20.Qd7±* 1.32/20 *Kg8 21.Qxd4 Qxd4 22.cxd4 )* 20...Qb7+!⩲ 21.Kg1 Nd7! *( 21...dxc3??* 4.66/21

21...Nd7 0.79 *22.Rfb1+- )* 22.cxd4± and Black's king will never be safe. ]

[ 19.b7 Qd5+ 20.Kg1 Qxb7 21.bxc3 f6 ]

[ 19.bxc3± 1.50/23 Qxb6 *( 19...Qd5+? 20.Kg1+- )* 20.Kg1 Decoy *( 20.Nxc4 Qc6+ 21.Qxc6 Nxc6=; 20.Qxc4 Qb7+ 21.Kg1 Nd7± )*]

**19...Nd7!±**

[ 19...f6? 3.37/20 19...Nd7 0.67 failed to 20.Qxe6! fxe5? 21.f3!+- , getting to Black's king. ]

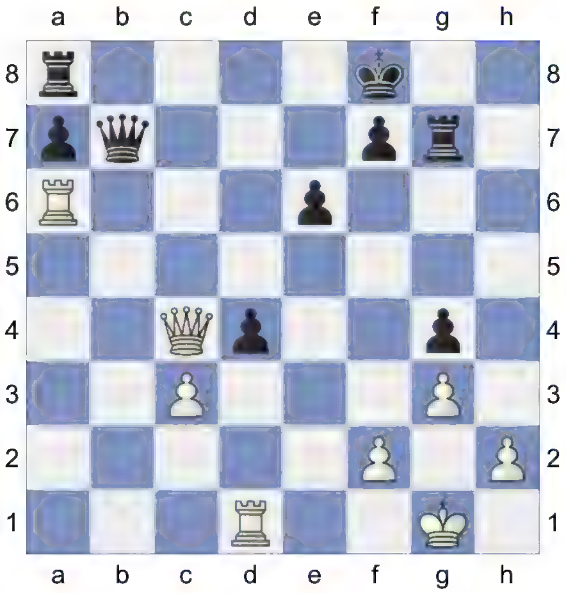
[ 19...Bxb2? 20.b7+- *( 20.Rxa7 f6+-; 20.Rxa7 d3+- )*]

[ 19...f6? 20.Qxe6 *( 20.Nd3 Qxb6 21.bxc3 Qc6+ 22.Qxc6 Nxc6+- )* 20...Bb4 21.Nd3+- *( 21.Nxg4 Nd7= )*]

**20.Nxd7+ Qxd7 21.Qc5+!?** 0.01/25

[The routine 21.bxc3 Qb7+! 22.Kg1 Qxb6 23.Rfb1

**A)** 23...Qd6 24.Ra6 Qd7 1.15/22 (Better is *24...Qd5± 0.49/22 25.Qxd5 exd5 )* 25.Rd1 0.58/22 *( 25.Qb4+± 1.15/22 Kg8 26.Rd6 )* 25...Qb7 1.69/20 ( Black should play *25...Rc8!± 0.58/22 26.Qb4+ Qe7 )*



26.Rd6!↑;

**B)** 23...Qd8 24.Rd1± was also better for White. ]

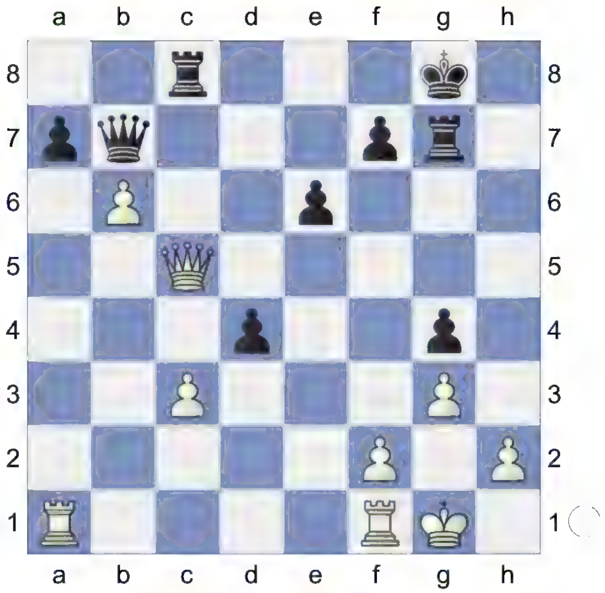
[ 21.bxc3± 0.52/24 Qb7+ 22.Kg1 Qxb6 23.Rfb1 *( 23.cxd4 Rg5=; 23.Qxd4 Qxd4 24.cxd4 Rd8= )*]

**21...Kg8 22.bxc3 Qb7+ 23.Kg1↑**

In a position with only major pieces on the board the safety of a king is most important. Here the difference between the kings is obvious so Black has to conduct a rather unpleasant defence. Active counter play! **23...Rc8??** 4.98/20

[ 23...axb6 24.Rxa8+ Qxa8 25.Qxd4↑ was a normal way. Then a possible line would be Qc6 26.Rb1 b5! 27.Qe5 , winning the pawn although Black would keep fighting after. Hoping for Rd1! f5! 28.Rxb5 Rd7 29.Rb1 but if he is able to hold such a position with stubborn defence it does not seem to be a good achievement to get the position right from the opening. Wards off Rd1+ ]

[ 23...axb6= 0.27/21 and Black has nothing to worry. 24.Rxa8+ *( 24.Qxd4 Rc8= )* 24...Qxa8 25.Qxd4 Qd5 ]



And he immediately comes up with a

blunder. Loses the game. **24.Qxc8+!!+-** Certainly missed. Deflection. White is clearly winning. **24...Qxc8 25.bxa7 Qa8**

[ 25...Qxc3? 26.a8Q+ ( *26.a8R+ Kh7=* ) 26...Kh7 27.Qe4+ Kh6 28.Ra8 ]

**26.Rfb1** Black must now prevent Rb8+.

**26...Kh7**

[ 26...dxc3 27.Rb8+ Kh7 28.Rxa8 f6 29.Rc8 ( *29.Rh8+ Kxh8 30.a8Q+ Rg8 31.Qc6 Kh7 32.Qxe6 Rg7 33.Qxf6 c2 34.Qf5+ Kh8; 29.Rh8+ Kxh8 30.a8Q+ Kh7 31.Qe4+ Kh8 32.Qxe6 Kh7 33.Qf5+ Kg8 34.Ra8+ Kf7* )]

**27.Rb8** Repels Rg8

[And not 27.cxd4 Rg8∓ ]

**27...Rg8** 8.11/33

[ ⌓27...Qxa7 4.45/19 28.Rxa7 dxc3 ]

**28.Rxa8**

[ 28.cxd4? perishes. Rxb8 29.axb8Q Qxb8-+ ]

**28...Rxa8 29.cxd4 Kg6 30.Ra5** Resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.38

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Cheparinov,Ivan** **2650**
■ **Franco Alonso,Alejandro** **2454**
San Sebastian (5) 03.01.2012
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

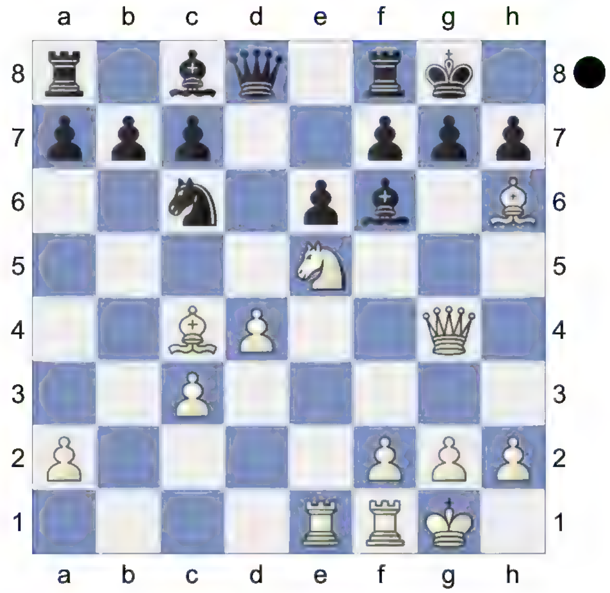
Ivan Cheparinov recently scored two victories in the Vienna Counter Gambit - here is one of them. However, it still seems that White does not get more than just enough compensation for the pawn if Black defends precisely.

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7 9.Ne5** White has compensation. **9...0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1** -0.28/21 This is technically a novelty but soon it transposes into the already played position. RR: '

[ At the moment White fails to pose real problems after 12.Rad1 Ne7 - see Halkias - Morozevich/ World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (1.4) 2011 for details. ]

[ ⌓12.Rfe1 0.21/23 ]



' RR: '* {#} ' **12...Ne7!=** A typical manoeuvre. Black moves his knight towards the K-side, at the same time preparing to undermine White's center by ...c7-c5.

[ In the game Cheparinov - Meier, Porto Carras 2011, Black played 12...Kh8 0.60/25 12...Ne7 -0.06 13.Bf4 0.16/20 ( *13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bd3!?; 13.Nxc6± 0.60/25 bxc6 14.Bd3* ) 13...Bxe5!= 14.dxe5 f5! 15.Qh5 -0.36/22 ( *15.exf6!? Qxf6 16.Bxc7* Threatening Qg3. *e5*

*17.Qe4;* White should play *15.exf6=* 0.23/24 *Qxf6 16.Bxc7 )* 15...Qe8∓ 16.Qh4 -0.68/20 *( ⌓16.Qxe8* -0.31/23 *Rxe8 17.f3 )* 16...Ne7!∓ 17.Bg5 and here Black should have preferred

**A)** while after 17...Ng8?! 0.14/24 17...Ng6 -0.79 18.Re3 -0.31/22 *( 18.Be2=* 0.14/24 *)* 18...b6 19.Rd1 Bb7 20.Be2 Black eventually failed to resist White's pressure.;

**B)** 17...Ng6 with acceptable play 18.Qh5 ]

**13.f4** With the rook on d1 this pawn advance would have been met by ...Ne7-f5. On the other hand, here the thematic ...c7-c5 gains in power as White's pawn on d4 has less support. **13...Ng6** In fact this is a new continuation. RR: 'N' 'N'. With the idea ...Nf5.

[ 13...Nf5!? 14.Bg5□ c5= ]

**14.Bg5 c5! 15.Rf3** Shifting the rook to the h-file looks fairly dangerous but Black has sufficient defensive resources.

[ 15.Nxg6 hxg6 ( the more reliable *15...fxg6* would be slightly worse for Black: *16.Bxe6+ Kh8 17.d5 Qxd5! 18.Bxd5 Bxg4 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Bxb7 Rae8 21.Bc6 Rxe1 22.Rxe1± )* 16.Qh4 was parried by Bxg5 *( 16...cxd4* 1.12/22 *16...b5* 0.00 *17.Rf3! )* 17.fxg5 Hoping for Rf3. b5! 18.Rf3 0.00/27 *( 18.Re3!±* 0.40/23 *e5 19.Bxb5 )* 18...e5!= 19.Bxb5 Rb8 20.g4!? Intending Rh3! and mate. *( 20.Bc4 cxd4 21.Ref1 Rb7! )* 20...Rxb5 21.Rh3 f5! *( 21...f6?* 2.32/22 21...f5 0.00 *22.dxe5 )* 22.gxf6! Qxf6 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Rf1 -0.40/19 *( 24.dxe5=* -0.01/25 deserves consideration. *Qg5 25.Rf3+ Bf5 26.e6+ Kf6 27.Qh3 )* 24...Qxf1+!∓ 25.Kxf1 Bxg4 0.00/26 *( 25...Rb1+∓* -0.50/28 *26.Kf2 Bxg4 )* 26.Rg3= and apart from giving checks Black also has Bh5!? , locking White's queen in the corner. Yet a draw is still most likely, e.g., 27.Rg5 cxd4 28.cxd4 Rb1+ 29.Kg2 Rb2+ 30.Kg3 exd4 31.Rxh5 gxh5 32.Qxh5+ with perpetual check. ]

**15...b5?** 2.27/23

[An immediate 15...cxd4! had to be played and perhaps White had a lack of resources to make his K-side action successful. For example,

**A)** 16.Bxf6 -0.84/20 16.Nxg6 -0.37 Qxf6 17.cxd4 Bd7! 18.Bd3 -1.18/19 *( 18.Re4∓* -0.70/21 *Qf5 19.Qxf5 exf5 20.Re1 Nxe5 21.dxe5 )* 18...Rad8∓ 19.Rh3 Qxf4 20.Qxf4 Nxf4 21.Bxh7+ Kh8;

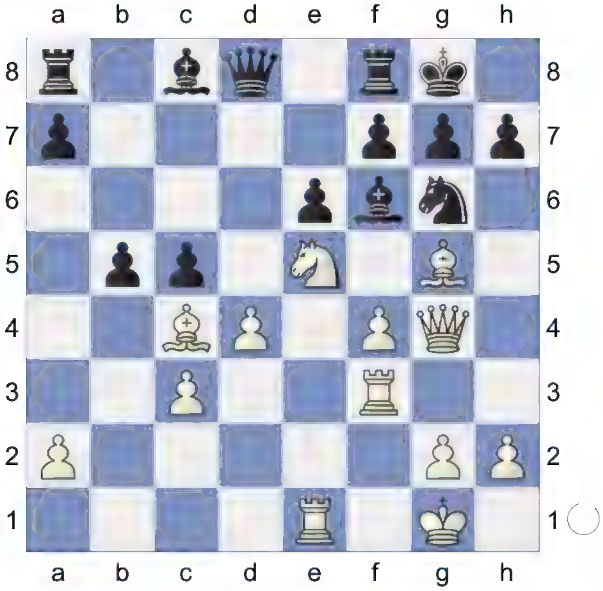
**B)** 16.Rh3!? Bxg5 17.fxg5 Nxe5 18.Qh5±;

**C)** 16.Rh3 Nxe5 17.Rxe5 dxc3 18.Bd3! Re8! 19.Bxf6! *( 19.Qh5?* -2.37/21 19.Bxf6 -0.36 *h6 )* 19...Qxf6 20.Bxh7+ -0.64/21 (White should try *20.Rxh7=* -0.09/21 *g6 21.Reh5 )* 20...Kf8∓ 21.Be4 Bd7!? -0.16/18 *( 21...Rd8!?; 21...Rd8!∓* -0.74/20 *22.Rxc3 Rd4 )* 22.Qd1!= g6!

**C1)** 23.Qxd7? -3.33/21 23.Qd6+ -0.28 Rad8 -1.93/18 *( ⌓23...Red8* -3.33/21 *24.Qa4 Qxf4 )* 24.Qc7 -3.31/24 *( ⌓24.Qxb7* -1.93/18 *Rd1+ 25.Kf2 Qxf4+ 26.Rf3 Qh4+ 27.Rg3 )* 24...Rd1+-+ 25.Kf2 Strongly threatening Kg3! Qxf4+ 26.Rf3 Qh4+ 27.Ke3 Re1+! 28.Kd3 f5!∓;

**C2)** 23.Qd6+! Kg8! 24.Bxg6! fxg6 25.Qxd7 Re7 26.Qd4 Rc8 27.Rxc3 Rxc3 28.Qxc3 Qxf4 and Black's extra pawn is good compensation for his somewhat vulnerable king - a draw is the most likely result. ]

[ 15...cxd4∓ -0.42/23 keeps the upper hand. 16.Nxg6 hxg6 ]



This pawn push promotes his opponent's attack. This costs Black the game. **16.Bd3!+-**

[ White did not need the pawn - after 16.Bxb5 cxd4 17.Rh3 Black had h6

**A)** 18.Bd3!? dxc3 *( 18...hxg5? 19.Qh5+- )* 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Bxg6 fxg6 21.Rxc3∓;

**B)** 18.Bd3

**B1)** or 18...Bxg5!? 0.97/27 18...dxc3 0.24 19.fxg5 0.03/26 *( 19.Bxg6 Bxf4! 20.Bxf7+ Rxf7 21.Nxf7 Qf6!; 19.Bxg6± 0.97/27 Bxf4 20.Bxf7+ Rxf7 21.Nxf7 )* 19...Nxe5= 20.Rxe5 f5! 21.Qf3 and here Black would even play hxg5!? ...g4 is the strong threat. 22.Qxa8 aiming for Qc6. g4

**B1a)** 23.Rg3 Qc7 Prevents Qc6. 24.Re1? -3.97/23 *( 24.Rxf5!= -0.24/22* and White is okay. *exf5 25.Qd5+ Qf7 26.Qxf7+ Kxf7 27.Bc4+ Kf6 28.cxd4 )* 24...Bd7-+;

**B1b)** 23.Rxf5!? gxh3 24.Rxf8+ Kxf8 25.Qf3+ Kg8 26.Qxh3 Qh7+ would now be deadly. Qd5 27.Bg6 Qe5! 28.Qh7+ Kf8 29.h3 And now Qh4 would win. *( 29.Qh8+ Ke7 30.Qh4+ Qf6 )* 29...Qe3+ with perpetual check;

**B2)** 18...dxc3 19.Bxh6! Qd4+ 20.Kh1 Bxe5 21.Qh5! gxh6 22.fxe5 Qf4 23.Bxg6 *( 23.Rg3* Threatening mate with Rxg6+. *Kh8!* White must now prevent ... Ba6! *24.Rf1! Qh4 )* 23...Bb7 24.Bc2 Rad8 and Black is holding on. ]

**16...Bb7**

[Here after 16...cxd4 17.Rh3 Black couldn't take on e5 so White's attack was decisive:. Threatens to win with Qh5. h6 18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Nxg6+- etc. ]

**17.Rh3 Qd5**

[In case of 17...Re8 5.10/23 17...Qd5 3.58 White had many options, e.g., 18.Qh5 h6 *( 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5 Bxg5 20.fxg5 )* 19.Bxg6 fxg6 20.Qxg6 White wants to mate with Qf7+. Bxg5 21.fxg5 Qxg5 22.Qf7+ Kh7 23.Qxb7+- ]

[ 17...cxd4 18.Bxg6 h6 19.Bxf7+ Rxf7 20.Nxf7+- ]

[ 17...Bxg5 18.fxg5 f5 19.gxf6 *( 19.dxc5? fxg4 20.Rg3 Nxe5-+ )* 19...Qxf6 20.Qg3+- *( 20.Bxb5? Qf2+ 21.Kh1 Qxe1+ )*]

**18.Bxf6**

[ Black was ready to give up his queen

after 18.Be4 Qxe4 19.Rxe4 Bxe4 but White doesn't make his life easier. ]

[ 18.Bxb5 Bxg5 *( 18...Qxa2?! 19.Bc4±; 18...cxd4 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Nd7= )* 19.fxg5 cxd4 *( 19...Qxa2 20.Nd7= )* 20.Nxg6 fxg6= *( 20...hxg6? 21.c4+- )*]

[ 18.Be4 Qxe4 19.Rxe4 Bxe4+- ]

**18...Qxg2+**

[ 18...gxf6? loses. 19.Be4 fxe5 *( 19...f5? 20.Qh5+- )* 20.Qh5+- *( 20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Qh5 Rfe8+- )*]

**19.Qxg2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 21.Kg3 Nxh3 22.Be7** White gets a decisive material advantage. The rest is easy. RR: '+-' '+-'. Xh6 would kill now.

**22...Ng5N**

[ 22...Rfe8 23.Bxc5 Ng5 24.Bxb5+- ]

**23.Bxf8** A strong pair of Bishops. White is clearly winning.

[Resist 23.Bxg5 cxd4 24.Nc6 *( 24.cxd4 f6+- )* 24...dxc3 25.Bxb5 h6+- ]

**23...cxd4 24.Be7 f6 25.cxd4 Re8 26.Nc6** Resigns.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.45

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Goldin,Alexander** **2612**
■ **Nielsen,Peter Heine** **2620**
FIDE-Wch k.o. (1.2) 28.11.2001
*[Nielsen,MH]*

RR: 'Inf 83/(417)' **1.d4** Nielsen,Peter Heine Nielsen,Peter Heine Heine Nielsen Heine Nielsen Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH' **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.e5 h6 8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: '*''

**10.dxc5**

[ 10.a3 Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'As played in Van Wely-Agrest seems more critical to me. Should black retreat with 10...Ba5 as in the game, this is certainly an achievement for White.''As played in Van Wely-Agrest seems more critical to me. Should black retreat with 10...♗a5 as in the game, this is certainly an achievement for White. Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'As played in Van Wely-Agrest seems more critical to me. Should black retreat with 10...♗a5 as in the game, this is certainly an achievement for White. '' ]

[ RR10.Qc2 Heine Nielsen cxd4 11.Qh7 Ke7 12.0-0-0 d3 *( 12...Nc6 13.Bxc4 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.Nxd4 Qa5 16.Kb2∞ )* 13.Ne5 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Qa5 15.Bxd3 Qxc3+ 16.Bc2 Qa1+= Atalik,S ]

**10...Qxd1+**

[ RR10...Qf6 Heine Nielsen 11.Bxc4 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qxc3+ 13.Nd2 ]

[ 10...Qa5 Heine Nielsen 11.Bxc4 Atalik,S ]

**11.Rxd1 Rxg7 12.Bxc4 Nc6**

[ 12...Nd7 Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'Is more normal.'' Is more normal. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'Is more normal. '' 13.c6 bxc6 14.0-0 Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'Should be ok for black, but I didn't find it completely satisfactory.''Should be ok for black, but I didn't find it completely satisfactory. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'Should be ok for black, but I didn't find it completely satisfactory. '' ]

[ RR12...Bxc5 Heine Nielsen 13.Ne4

Be7 14.Ne5± Atalik,S ]

**13.0-0**

[ RR13.h4 Heine Nielsen gxh4 ( *13...g4 14.Nd2 Bxc5 15.Nde4 Bd4 16.h5→* ) 14.Rxh4 Rxg2 15.Bb5 Bxc3+ 16.bxc3 Ke7 17.Rh8→ Atalik,S ]

**13...Bxc5** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'N!?" 'N!?' RR: 'N!?' 'N!?'

[ 13...g4 (Heine Nielsen) ↑ 46/550 Ü 46/550 RR: 'Ü 46/550 ↑ 46/550' ]

**14.Ne4 Be7 15.g4**

[ 15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.Rxd6 Ke7 17.Rfd1 Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Would be great, but 16...g4! destroys black's coordination Therefore the textmove is the only way to try and pressurize. ." Would be great, but 16...g4! destroys black's coordination Therefore the textmove is the only way to try and pressurize. . Would be great, but 16...g4! destroys black's coordination

Therefore the textmove is the only way to try and pressurize. . Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'Would be great, but 16...g4! destroys black's coordination

Therefore the textmove is the only way to try and pressurize. ." ]

[ 15.Bb5 Bd7 16.Rxd7 Kxd7 17.Ne5+ Kc7 18.Rc1 Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Might look intimidating, but its just bad for white after." Might look intimidating, but its just bad for white after.Might look intimidating, but its just bad for white after. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen, PH: 'Might look intimidating, but its just bad for white after. " Rc8 ]

**15...Bd7 16.Nd6+ Bxd6 17.Rxd6 Ke7 18.Rfd1 Be8** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'White has optical pressure, but blacks is much too solid. White however needed to win in order to stay in the match, so he tries regrouping." White has optical pressure, but blacks is much too solid. White however needed to win in order to stay in the match, so he tries regrouping. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'White has optical pressure, but blacks is much too solid. White however needed to win in order to stay in the match, so he tries regrouping. " **19.R6d2 Rc8** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen, Peter Heine: '=" '=' RR: '=' '=' **20.Re1 Rg8 21.a3 Kf6** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen, Peter Heine: 'Preparing Ne7-g6. Bad news for white. More exchanges is neccesary.' 'Preparing ♘e7-g6. Bad news for white. More exchanges is neccesary. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen, PH: 'Preparing ♘e7-g6. Bad news for white. More exchanges is neccesary. " **22.Ba2 Ne7 23.Ne5 Ng6 24.Nxg6 Rxg6 25.Bb1 Rh6 26.Be4 b6 27.Kg2 Bc6** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Securing the draw."Securing the draw. Nielsen,Peter Heine: 'Nielsen,PH: 'Securing the draw. " **28.Bxc6 Rxc6 29.Rd7 Rc2 30.Re3 Kg7 31.Rf3 Rf6 32.Rxf6 Kxf6 33.b4 a5 34.bxa5 bxa5 35.Ra7** Heine Nielsen: 'Nielsen,Peter Heine: '½-½ (35) Goldin,A (2612)-Nielsen,P (2620) Moscow 2001 CBM 086 [Nielsen,Peter Heine]"

½-½

**D44**

☐ **Vallejo Pons,Francisco 2674**
■ **Perez Candelario,Manuel 2496**
ESP-ch KO Leon (1.2) 28.11.2006
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The Botvinnik Variation with the inclusion of a2-a4 and ...Bf8-b4 has recently started gaining some popularity. Here Francisco Vallejo Pons came up with an improvement over his own game, in which he faced the same position from the other side of the board. White managed to get somewhat the better chances but it seems that Black can still play the line.
D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System
Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3**

[ 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Qc2 Rxg7∓ ]

**11...Bb7 12.Bg2! c5** Strongly threatening ...cxd4. **13.0-0**

[ 13.axb5 cxd4 14.Qa4 g4∓ ]

**13...g4** White is better. **14.Nh4** 0.42/18 A dynamic duo of knights.

[ 14.axb5!± 1.38/23 Rxg7 *( 14...Bxf3 15.Bxf3 gxf3 16.Qxf3± )* 15.Ne5 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 cxd4 17.Qa4 dxc3 *( 17...Bxc3 18.b6+ Kf8 19.bxc3± )* 18.b6+ Nd7 19.Nxd7 Qxd7 20.Qxb4 ]

**14...Bxg2⩲ 15.Nxg2 Rxg7**

[The interesting 15...cxd4 16.Ne4!? 0.00/19 *( 16.Nxb5⩲ 0.66/22 Nc6 17.Qe2 )* 16...f5 0.81/21 *( 16...Rxg7=* 0.00/19 keeps the balance. *17.axb5 Be7 )* 17.Nf4! has been considered in the game Gormally - Trent/Southend 2006. ]

**16.dxc5** Having faced problems with Black, Vallejo Pons certainly knew the most promising way for White in this position.

[ 16.axb5 cxd4 17.Ne4 should be met by Be7! *(*while *17...f5?!* 1.62/20 17...Be7 0.18 gave White a dangerous initiative after *18.Nf4!* - see Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons/ Morelia Linares 2006. *)*]

[ 16.Nxb5 a6 17.Na3 Bxa3 18.Rxa3 cxd4= ]

**16...Bxc5 17.axb5**

[ 17.Qe2!? , intending to capture on b5 with the knight and avoiding the endgame, was also interesting. A possible line would be Nd7 1.09/18

Wards off Qe5 ( *17...Nc6!⩲* 0.38/21 *18.Nxb5 Qb6* ) 18.Nxb5 0.57/20 ( *18.Rfd1±* 1.09/18 ) 18...Rc8⩲ 19.Rad1⩲ with somewhat the better chances for White. ]

**17...Nd7** 1.14/22

[ 17...Qxd1⩲ 0.52/20 18.Rfxd1 Rg5 ]

**18.Re1± Qc7 19.Qd5** 0.64/21

[ 19.Qe2!± 1.13/21 ]

**19...Nb6** 1.52/22

[In case of 19...0-0-0 White could secure the edge by 20.Qa8+ Qb8 21.Qc6+! Qc7 22.Re4⩲ 0.27/23 Wards off Bd4 ( *22.Ra4±* 0.93/20 *Kb8 23.Qxc7+ Kxc7 24.Rxc4* )]

[Better is 19...0-0-0!⩲ 0.64/21 20.Qa8+ ( *20.Qxc4?* too greedy. *Bxf2+* Discovered Attack *21.Kxf2 Qxc4-+* ) 20...Qb8 21.Qc6+ Qc7 ]

**20.Qe5?!** 0.00/23 I suspect that White was a bit worried about the possible manoeuvre ...Nd7-e5-f3, so he planned to swap queens but here it was more to the point to play the middlegame. White has more active pieces.

[ It was better to put the queen in the center by 20.Qe4⩲ 0.65/18 20.Qd2 1.40 , keeping the better chances. ]

[White should try 20.Qd2± 1.52/22 ]

**20...Qxe5= 21.Rxe5 Nd7**

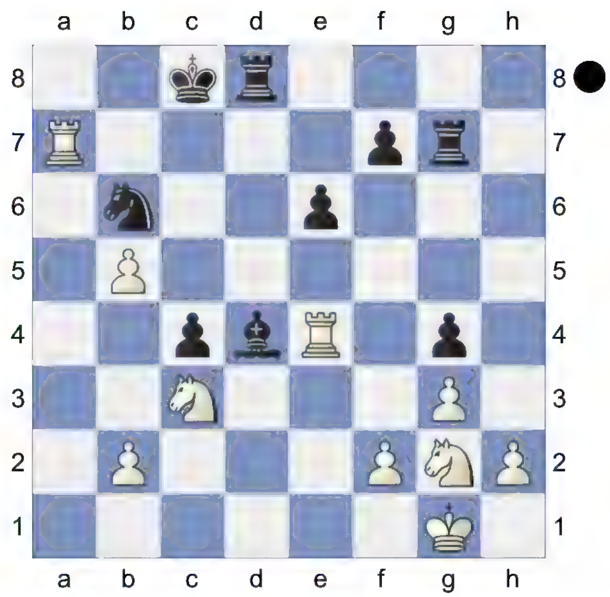
[ 21...Bd4! was stronger: 22.Re4 0-0-0!∞ , intending to meet 23.Rxa7? -1.26/22 ( *23.Ne3=* 0.00/23 remains equal. )

(Diagram)

with 23...f5!∓ 24.Rxg7 fxe4 , winning a piece! ]

**22.Re4 Rg5 23.Ne3**

[Not 23.Rxc4?! Ne5! with strong counterplay. ]



**23...Ne5?!** Black prefers to give up the pawn on c4 but keep the bishop.

[The preliminary 23...Bxe3!? was probably stronger: 24.Rxe3 Re5! and 25.Rxe5 Nxe5 26.b6 did not promise much:. aiming for Nb5.

**A)** 26...a5!? 27.b7 Rb8 28.Ne4 ( *28.Rxa5!? Nf3+□ 29.Kg2 Rxb7 30.Rb5 Rxb5 31.Nxb5=* ) 28...Ke7 29.Nc5 Nc6;

**B)** 26...a6 27.Ra5 Nd3⇄ ]

**24.Nxc4 Nxc4 25.Rxc4 Bb6 26.Na4 Bd8**

[ 26...Rxb5? 27.Nxb6 Rxb6 28.Rxg4 was difficult for Black. ]

**27.Nc3** Black must now prevent Ra6.

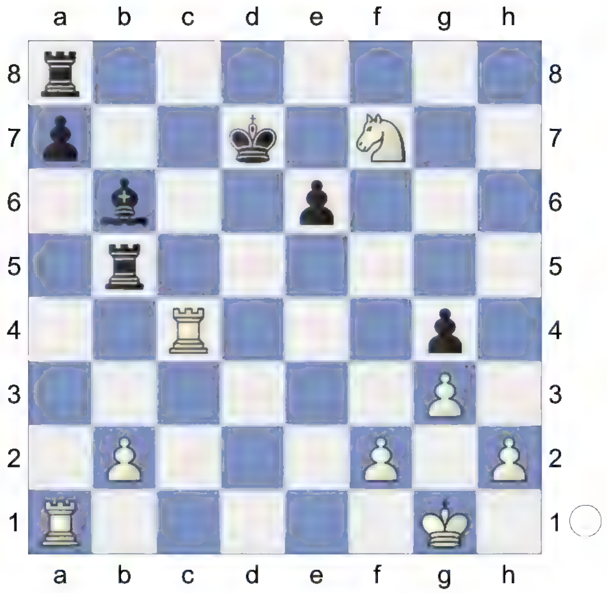
[After 27.Nc5 Bb6 28.b4 Rd8 it was difficult for White to make progress. ]

**27...Bb6 28.Na4** And now Nxb6 would win.

[ 28.Ne4!? was worth trying but Black could defend: Re5 29.Nd6+

**A)** 29...Kd7 0.89/23 29...Ke7 0.40 30.Nxf7 Rxb5 1.96/21 ( *30...Rf5±* 1.19/22 *31.Rf4 Rxb5* )

(Diagram)



31.Nh6!+- Rxb2 32.Nxg4 gave White an extra pawn although Black could still hope with his bishop and a-passer;

**B)** 29...Ke7!? 30.Nc8+ Rxc8! 31.Rxc8 Re2! Dodges Rc2 32.Rxa7+!? Bxa7 33.Rc7+ Kf6 34.Rxa7 Rxb2 35.Rb7± with a probable draw but Black still had to work hard. ]

**28...Bd8 29.b4 Ke7**

[ 29...Rxb5!? 30.Rxg4 Be7± was maybe more tenacious. Wards off Nc5 ]

**30.Rc5! Rg7 31.Rc6!** Ra6 is the strong threat.

[A slow line like 31.Kg2 Rb8 32.Rd1 was also possible but the text move is more energetic. ]

**31...Rb8 32.Ra6 Rxb5 33.Rxa7+ Kf6! 34.Nc5?** White could not believe his luck - now it's just a draw. Threatens to win with Rd1.

[ In fact he had a strong resource to prove his superiority: 34.Rd7! Be7 35.Nc3! Rb6 ( *35...Rxb4?* 2.11/20 35...Rb6 0.54 *36.Ra6!* ) 36.Ne4+ Kf5 37.Rxe7 Kxe4 38.Rb1+- with a technically winning position. ]

**34...Rxb4** The position is equal. **35.Rd1 Bb6 36.Nd7+ Kf5 37.Nxb6** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Moiseenko,Alexander 2664**
■ **Bluvshtein,Mark 2525**
94/(329) Edmonton 2005
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Black recently faces serious problems in the risky line with 7...h6. Here White quickly sent his queen to h7 and his threats to Black's king soon brought results. RR: 'Inf 94/(329)'

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.e5 h6** A sharp and risky alternative to the approved 7...cxd4. **8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8 10.Qc2!** * * This continuation has recently given Black problems.

[In the endgame after 10.dxc5 -0.07/21 10.Qc2 0.64 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Rxg7 Black is okay but perhaps White is slightly better. For example,

**A)** or 12.Bxc4 Nc6 13.Ke2 -0.32/21 ( *13.g4=* 0.04/21 ) 13...Bxc5 14.Ne4 Be7 with equal play, Jobava - Aronian, EU-chT Gothenburg 2005;

**B)** 12.Rd4 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 next h4! is good for White. Nc6 14.Rg4 f6 15.h4 Rh7 16.Rxc4 Black must now prevent Rh2. e5 17.Bd3 Rh6 18.h5 Be6 19.Bg6+

Kd7 20.Ra4⩲ Bologan - Kharlov, Moscow Aeroflot 2005 ]

[ 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 may also promise better chances for White:

**A)** 11...Qa5 12.dxc5 0.30/23 *( 12.Rc1± 0.79/19 )* 12...Nc6= 13.Nd2! gave better chances for White in the game Vallejo Pons - Topalov, Monte Carlo 2005;

**B)** 11...cxd4 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 14.Rxd1 bxc6 15.h4!⩲ with a small advantage in the endgame in Krivoshey - Delchev, Bajada de la Virgen 2005. ]

[ 10.Bxc4?! g4 11.Nd2 cxd4= ]

**10...cxd4** 1.36/20

[ 10...Nd7 fails to solve the problems:. Strongly threatening ...g4. 11.dxc5! Qf6 12.Bxc4 Nxc5 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3

**A)** or 14...Bd7 1.15/22 14...g4 0.76 15.Qe2 Rxg7 16.Ne5⩲ I.Sokolov - Perunovic, Neum 2005;

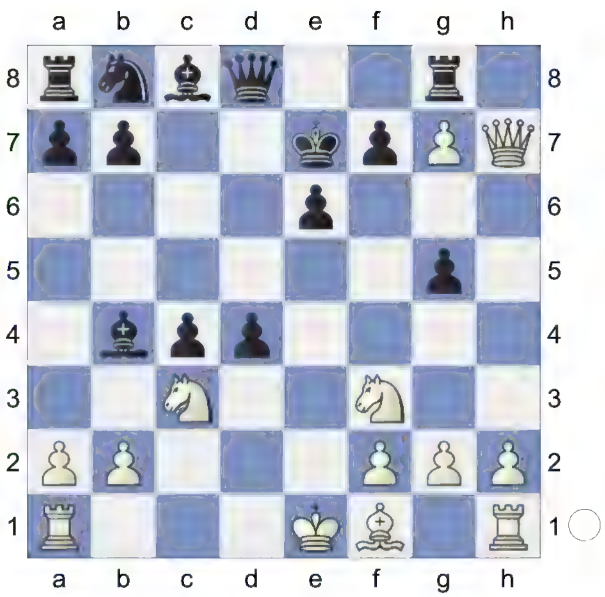
**B)** 14...g4 15.Nd2 Qf5 0.93/19 Repels Ne4 *( 15...Bd7!⩲ 0.54/19 was preferrable.)* 16.Qxf5 0.23/16 *( 16.Bb5+± 0.93/19 Ke7 17.Qb2 )* 16...exf5= 17.Rfe1+ Be6 18.Re5 b6 0.76/23 *( 18...Nd7⩲ 0.35/20 19.Re2 Nc5 )* 19.Nb3!± 0-0-0 20.Bxe6+! Nxe6 21.Rxf5± I.Sokolov - Aronian, Merida 2005;

**C)** ⌓14...g4 0.76/18 15.Bb5+ Bd7 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Rad1+ Kc8;

**D)** 14...Rxg7 1.21/21 15.Rfe1± Bd7 16.Rab1 Kf8 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Bb5 b6 19.a4 Qf5 20.Qd1!± and Black's forces were divided in two parts in the game Huebner - Hinks Edwards, Cannes 2005. ]

[ 10...Qf6⩲ 0.59/21 ]

**11.Qh7± Ke7**



**12.Rd1** 0.27/24 Chess con chili. White is more active.

[ 12.0-0-0! deserves attention but White preferred to keep his king in safety. ]

[Better is 12.0-0-0!± 1.30/21 Bxc3 13.bxc3 ]

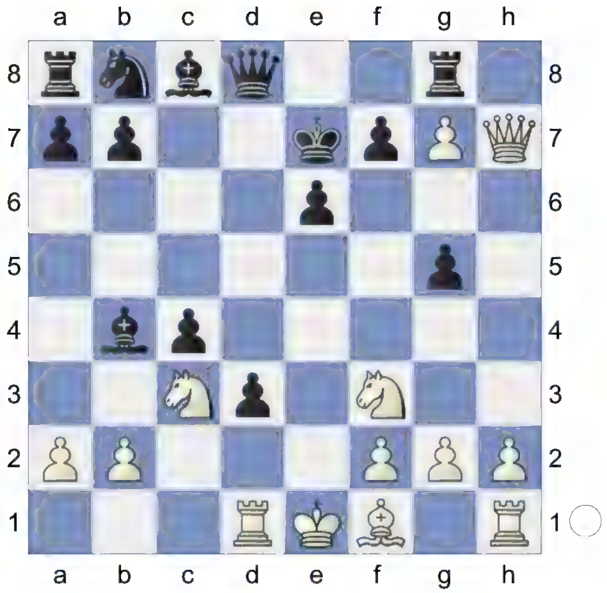
**12...d3** 1.76/24

[Black should have played 12...Nc6! A recent game Khurtsidze - Zaiatz, EU-ch (w) Chisinau 2005 continued 13.Bxc4 Threatens to win with 0-0! Bd7! 14.Nxd4 ( other options such as *14.a3!?* deserved attention*)* 14...Nxd4 15.Rxd4 0-0 is the strong threat. Qb6 16.Qe4 And now 0-0 would win. Bc6 17.Qe5 -0.49/23 *( 17.Bd5!= 0.00/26 Bxc3+ 18.bxc3 )* 17...Qc5∓ 18.Qxc5+ Bxc5 19.Rg4 and here a was agreed. However, White's play could have probably been improved. ]

[ 12...Nc6!= 0.27/24 ]

(Diagram)

This attempt to stop White's development fails. Loses the game.



**13.Bxd3!+-** Of course!

[Not 13.Nxg5 Qd4 14.Qxg8 Qe5+ 15.Kd2 Qf4+ ( *15...Qxg5+ 16.Ke1=* ) 16.Ke1 Qe5+ 17.Kd2 Qxg5+ 18.Ke1 Qe5+ 19.Kd2 Qf4+ 20.Ke1 Qe5+ 21.Kd2 Bxc3+ 22.bxc3 Qg5+ 23.Ke1 Qe5+ 24.Kd2 Qf4+ 25.Ke1 Qe5+ 26.Kd2= ]

**13...Bxc3+** 2.86/18

[ The dark-squared bishop could be rather useful in defence but Black was probably worried that after 13...cxd3 14.Rxd3 Qe8 2.79/18 ( *14...Rxg7±* 1.49/21 was called for. *15.Rxd8 Rxh7 16.Rxc8 g4* ) 15.0-0+- the knight will have to be eliminated anyway but White will capture on c3 with the rook: Bxc3 ( *15...Nd7* 3.57/19 15...Bxc3 2.52 *16.Ne4→* ) 16.Rxc3 f6 17.Rd1→ with a strong attack. ]

[ ⌓13...cxd3 1.66/23 14.Rxd3 Qe8 ]

**14.bxc3 cxd3 15.Rxd3 Qe8** 5.10/17

[After 15...Nd7 16.Nxg5→ 0.68/18 Black could hardly parry White's forthcoming threats. ( White should try *16.0-0+-* 2.19/23 )]

[ Perhaps the endgame after 15...Rxg7!? 16.Rxd8 Rxh7 17.Rxc8± could promise more chances to escape but it wasn't fun for Black anyway. ]

[ 15...Rxg7 2.83/24 16.Rxd8 Rxh7 17.Rxc8 g4 ]

**16.Nxg5** Black is already defenceless but you would be surprised that everything has already been played before! **16...f5N** #13/15 Inhibits Ne4.

[ In the game Halkias - Georgiev, Aghia Pelagia 2004 White achieved a technically winning position after 16...f6 ↑ 91/379 RR: '↑ 91/379' Ü 91/379 17.Ne4 Qf7 18.Nd6! Qxg7 19.Nxc8+ Kf7 20.Qe4! f5 21.Qxb7+ Kf6 22.Qxa8 Rxc8 23.0-0+- ]

[ 16...f6+- 5.07/20 17.Ne4 e5 ]

**17.Qh4!** White mates.

[Weaker is 17.Rg3 Nd7± ]

**17...Qg6**

[Other moves couldn't help: 17...Rxg7 18.Ne4+ #7/14 ( *18.Nf3++-* 7.42/19 *Kf8 19.Rd8* Pin ) 18...Kf8 19.Qh8+ Rg8 20.Qf6+ Qf7 21.Rd8# checkmate ]

[or 17...Nd7 18.Nh7+ Kf7 19.Qh5+ Ke7 ( *19...Kxg7 20.Rg3+ Kh8 21.Nf6+! Qxh5 22.Rxg8#!* checkmate ) 20.Qg5+ Kf7 21.Rxd7+! Qxd7 22.Qf6+ Ke8 23.Qf8+! again with checkmate on the next move. ]

**18.Ne4+ Kf7 19.Nd6+ Kxg7 20.Qe7+** Black resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.11 (very precise) /Black=1.49

**1-0**

**D24**
☐ **Kosakowski,Jakub 2476**
■ **Vagman,Roy 2298**
EU-ch 23rd Vrnjacka Banja (10) 12.03.23
*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7** **10.Qd2!** outshines the older 10.Be3. erfolgreicher als das alte 10. Le3. **10...0-0 11.Rd1 Rb8 12.Nc3 Kh8 13.Qf4 Nb4** **14.Ne4N**

[Predecessor: 14.Qg4 f5 ( *14...N4d5 15.Qh5 Nxc3 16.bxc3 Bb7 17.Ng5 Bxg5 18.Bxg5 Qd5 19.Bf3 Qb5 20.Be7 Rfe8 21.Bc5 Kg8* 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ) 15.exf6 gxf6 16.Qh5 N4d5 17.Bd2 Qe8 18.Qxe8 Rxe8 19.Rac1 Ba6 20.b3 -0.73/20 ½-½ (117) Nihal,S (2705)-Pichot,A (2629) Dubai 2021 ( *20.Bf1±* 0.36/21 keeps the upper hand. )]

**14...Nc2** 0.45/20

[ 14...N6d5= 0.06/20 should be considered. 15.Qg4 Nd3 ]

**15.Rb1± Nd5 16.Qd2 Na3 17.Ra1**

[ 17.bxa3 Rxb1 18.Bxc4 Rb8∓ ]

**17...Bb4 18.Qg5 Nc2 19.Rb1 Be7** 1.33/27

[ ⌓19...Qxg5 0.87/20 20.Bxg5 h6 ]

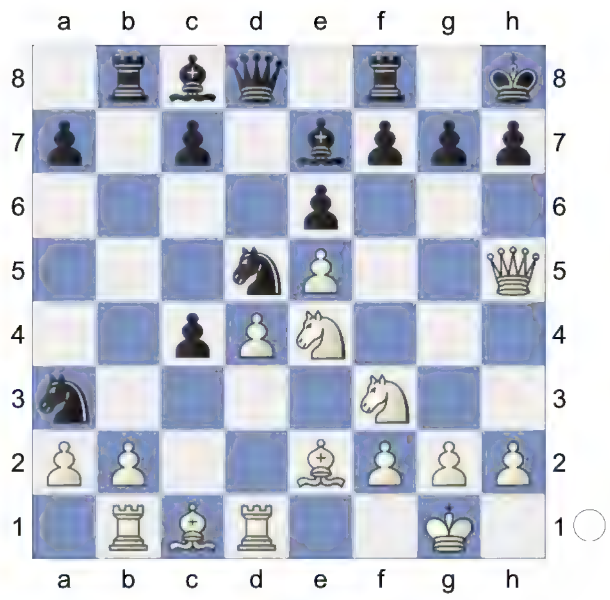
**20.Qh5± Na3** 1.76/23

[ 20...Qe8± 1.29/19 ]

(Diagram)

**21.Nfg5!+-** Double Attack **21...h6 22.Nxf7+**

[ 22.bxa3?! Rxb1 23.Nxf7+ Rxf7 24.Qxf7 c3± ]



**22...Rxf7 23.Qxf7→** And now Bxh6! would win. White is out for blood.

[ 23.bxa3 Rxb1 24.Qxf7 c3 ]

**23...Nxb1** 1.89/19

[ 23...Qg8± 1.39/23 24.bxa3 ( *24.Qxg8+ Kxg8 25.Bd2 Nxb1±* ) 24...Rxb1 ]

**24.Bxc4 Rb4** 2.62/20

[ ⌓24...Qg8 1.80/21 25.Qf3 Bb7 ]

**25.Bb3! Qf8 26.Qg6 Rxb3 27.axb3 Bb7** 3.58/20

[ 27...Qf5 2.50/19 might work better. 28.Qe8+ Kh7 ]

**28.Ng3 Bg5 29.Bxg5**

[ 29.Qxb1 Bf4 30.Qc2 Qf7+- ]

**29...hxg5 30.Qxg5 Nf4 31.f3 Kg8 32.Qg4** Dodges Nh3+ **32...c5 33.d5 Bxd5 34.Rxb1 c4**

(Diagram)

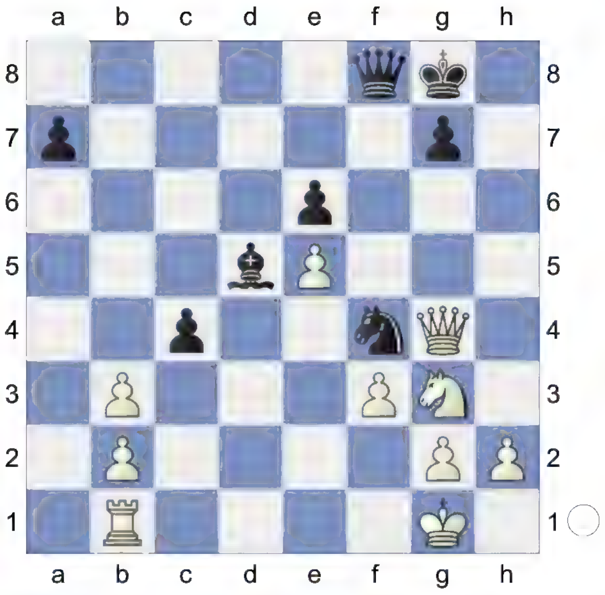
**35.b4** Prevents Qc5+. **35...Nd3**

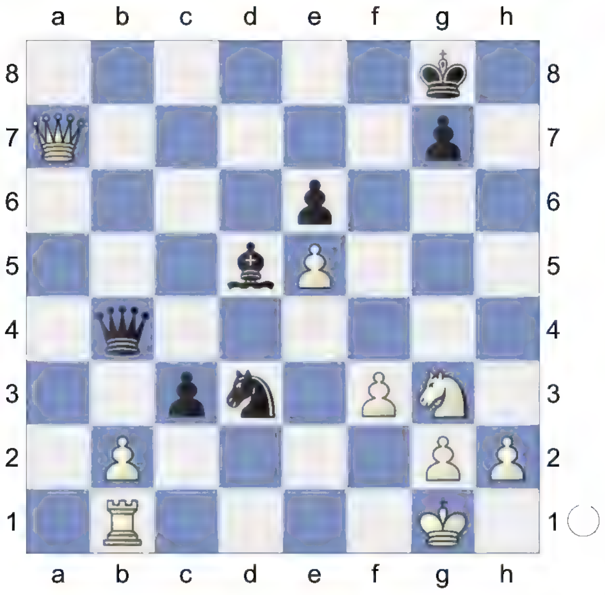
[ 35...Qf7 36.Ra1 ]

**36.Qd4 Qxb4 37.Qxa7?** 1.27/20

[ 37.Nf5+- 3.78/22 has better winning chances. ]

**37...c3±**





White must now prevent ...c2. **38.Qe3! c2?** 3.15/26 Black cannot hold the game after this.

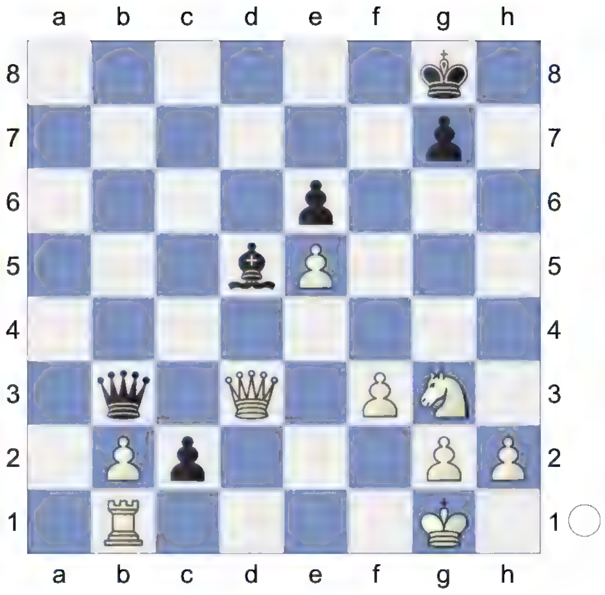
[ 38...Qb5± 1.34/25 ]

**39.Qxd3+- Qb3**

(Diagram)

**40.Qf1**

[And not 40.Qg6 Qe3+ ( *40...cxb1B? perishes. 41.Qxb1 Qe3+ 42.Kh1+-* ) 41.Kh1 c1Q+ 42.Nf1 Kf8 43.Rxc1 Qxc1= ]



**40...Qe3+ 41.Kh1 cxb1Q 42.Qxb1 Qxe5** Endgame. KQB-KQN **43.Qc1 Qd4 44.Nf1 Kh7 45.Ne3 Qb4 46.Qc3 Qb5 47.Kg1 Bb7 48.Kf2 e5 49.Kg3 Kh8 50.Nf5** Qc7 would kill now. **50...Qe8 51.Kf2** aiming for Qc7. **51...Qe6 52.Ne3 e4 53.f4**

[Weaker is 53.Qc7 Qb3+- ]

**53...Qh6 54.Kg3 Qg6+ 55.Ng4 e3 56.Qxe3 Bxg2 57.b4 Bc6 58.h3 Qb1 59.Qd2 Kh7 60.Ne5 Be4** Dodges Qd3 **61.Kh4** Nf7 is the strong threat. **61...Bf5?** 4.42/21

[ 61...Qb3 2.31/19 62.Ng4 Qc4 ]

**62.Nf3** White is clearly winning. **62...Bd3** 6.90/20

[ ⌓62...Qh1 4.31/26 63.Ng5+ Kh6 ]

**63.Qe3 Bg6** Prevents Qe8. **64.Ng5+ Kh6 65.Ne6 Qxb4 66.Qe5**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.17 (very precise) /Black=0.36

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Chatalbashev,Boris** **2554**
■ **Gustafsson,Jan** **2603**
Olympiad Calvia de Mallorca (9) 24.10.04
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The Vienna Variation is known to be one of the sharpest variations in the entire body of opening theory. However, in many cases after a well-known series of moves the position becomes rather quiet and White can maintain some slight pressure. Nowadays the line 7. Bxc4 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bxc3 9. bxc3 Qa5 10. Bb5 is one of White's main attempts to gain the advantage. Here Black has a choice - by playing 10...Nbd7 Black can get an extra pawn but White's initiative can become rather dangerous. 10... Bd7 is known to be safer but Black's chances to outplay White are not so high in this line. In this game, after 11.Bxf6 gxf6 White did not choose the most popular option but his 12. Bxd7!? Nxd7 13.0-0 is still interesting. However, later he missed a chance to maintain the initiative and let Black take control over the position, which did not bring him the full point since in mutual time trouble he was driven away by spectacular but drawish complications.

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D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan:

The Vienna Variation is known to be one of the sharpest variations in the entire body of opening theory. However, in many cases after a well-known series of moves the position becomes rather quiet and White can maintain some slight pressure. Nowadays the line 7. Bxc4 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bxc3 9. bxc3 Qa5 10. Bb5 is one of White's main attempts to gain the advantage. Here Black has a choice - by playing 10...Nbd7 Black can get an extra pawn but White's initiative can become rather dangerous. 10... Bd7 is known to be safer but Black's chances to outplay White are not so high in this line. In this game, after 11.Bxf6 gxf6 White did not choose the most popular option but his 12. Bxd7!? Nxd7 13. 0-0 is still interesting. However, later he missed a chance to maintain the initiative and let Black take control over the position, which did not bring him the

full point since in mutual time trouble he was driven away by spectacular but drawish complications.' **1.d4** Boudy Bueno, Julio Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** Recently this is one of White's main attempts to gain some advantage in the Vienna Variation. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The line'' Recently this is one of White's main attempts to gain some advantage in the Vienna Variation. This pair of bishops is nice.

[The line 10.Bxf6 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.h4 Ke7 14.Rh3 Nc6 15.Nxc6+ bxc6 is supposed to be acceptable for Black. ]

**10...Bd7**

[ 10...Nbd7 wins a pawn but White's initiative after Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) wins a pawn but White's initiative after' 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4! is rather dangerous. Yet, Black's defensive resources should not be underestimated. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'is rather dangerous. Yet, Black's defensive resources should not be underestimated.' ]

**11.Bxf6! gxf6** Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Here''

[Here 11...Qxc3+? 2.52/21 11...gxf6 0.37 just loses to Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) just loses to' 12.Kf1 gxf6 3.82/19 *( 12...Bxb5+* 2.57/18 was called for. *13.Nxb5 Discovered Attack Qxf6 )* 13.Rc1 followed by Rc1-c8. ]

[ 11...Qxc3+? 12.Kf1 0-0 *( 12...gxf6? 13.Rc1+- )* 13.Bh4+- ]

**12.Bxd7+** This simple approach is not very popular but perhaps it's a bit underestimated. This simple approach is not very popular but perhaps it's a bit underestimated.

[ Usually White prefers to develop his queen first by Usually White prefers to develop his queen first by 12.Qb3 Bxb5 Boudy Bueno, Julio 13.Nxb5 0-0 14.0-0 Nc6 15.c4 ]

**12...Nxd7** White has an edge. **13.0-0** This type of position is often reached in the Vienna. Black's K-side pawn structure is damaged and his king is not safe but he is hoping that his pressure on the c-file and the good possibility to arrange his pieces in front of White's c-pawn will help to keep White's pieces at a distance. This type of position is often reached in the Vienna. Black's K-side pawn structure is damaged and his king is not safe but he is hoping that his pressure on the c-file and the good possibility to arrange his pieces in front of White's c-pawn will help to keep White's pieces at a distance. **13...a6** Let's take a look at the other options: Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The idea Black introduced in the game Krivoshey - Donchenko, Frankfurt 2004 deserves attention:'' Let's take a look at the other options:

[ 13...Qxc3?! 0.86/21 13...Qe5 0.24 can be well met Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) can be well met' 14.Qa4 0.27/21 ( *14.Nb5±* 0.86/21 *Qc6 15.Rb1* ) 14...0-0= 15.Nxe6! Nb6?! ( *15...fxe6* 0.88/19 15...Nb6 0.36 was a bit better but after *16.Qxd7↑* White's superiority was beyond doubt as Black's king was too vulnerable Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'White's superiority was beyond doubt as Black's king was too vulnerable'*)* 16.Qd4 Qxd4 17.Nxd4 Rfd8 18.Nf5± with a big advantage in the endgame thanks to Black's terrible K-side pawn structure, Antic - Zontakh, Jagodina 1998. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with a big advantage in the endgame thanks to Black's terrible K-side pawn structure, Antic - Zontakh, Jagodina 1998.' ]

[ 13...Rd8?! does not solve the problems. The game Bunzmann - Acs, Budapest 1998 continued Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) does not solve the problems. The game Bunzmann - Acs, Budapest 1998 continued' 14.Rb1 Ne5?! ( *14...Nc5* 0.98/19 14...Qxc3 0.42 *15.Qf3↑* ) 15.Rxb7 Qxc3 1.38/23 ( *15...0-0!⩲* 0.70/20 ) 16.Qa4+± Kf8 17.Rd1± with a strong initiative. ]

[ In the game Granero Roca - Palac, Lorca 2001 Black tried In the game Granero Roca - Palac, Lorca 2001 Black tried 13...Nc5 and here White could have secured the better chances by Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) and here White could have secured the better chances by' 14.Qf3! ( *14.Qh5* 0.40/18 14.Qf3 1.00 *Qc7 15.Rab1 Qe5!∞* was less clear*)* 14...Ke7 1.38/18 ( *⌓14...Rg8* 0.96/20 ) 15.Nb3!? 0.25/23 ( *15.Qf4±* 1.38/18 )

**A)** 15...Qc7? 1.74/21 15...Nxb3 0.19 16.Nxc5! Qxc5 17.e5! fxe5 18.Qxb7+ Kf6 19.Qf3+ Ke7 20.Rab1 Intending Rb7+ and mate. Rab8 21.Qh3↑ 0.97/20 xKe7 ( *21.Qg4+-* 2.04/20 has better winning chances. *)*;

**B)** 15...Nxb3!= 16.axb3 Qb6 1.03/23 ( *16...Qe5!=* 0.14/20 ) 17.c4⩲ 0.32/19 ( *17.Ra4±* 1.03/23 *a5 18.b4* )]

[ The idea Black introduced in the game Krivoshey - Donchenko, Frankfurt 2004 deserves attention: The idea Black introduced in the game Krivoshey - Donchenko, Frankfurt 2004 deserves attention: 13...Qc7!? Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan' 14.Qd2 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'or' (or *14.Nb5 Qc6 15.Rb1 Ke7* ) 14...Nc5 15.Rae1 0.39/23 ( *15.Qe3* 0.34/18 15.Nb5 0.89 seemed more precise*; 15.Nb5±* 0.97/20 *Qc6 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Rad1* ) 15...0-0-0!?∞ and Black has managed to move his king to the safer place. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'and Black has managed to move his king to the safer place.' ]

**14.Rb1 Qc7** Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black's defence must be well thought-out: such routine play as''

[ Black's defence must be well thought-out: such routine play as Black's defence must be well thought-out: such routine play as 14...Nc5?! 1.08/18 14...Qc7 0.27 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' 15.Qf3 Qd8 1.81/20 ( *15...Rg8± 1.12/19* ) 16.Rfe1 1.02/21 ( *16.Rfd1+- 1.81/20 Qe7 17.Ne2* ) 16...Rc8 1.46/21 ( *⌓16...Qe7 1.02/21* ) 17.Rbd1 with the idea Nd4-f5 gave White a strong initiative in the game Radjabov - Toth, Biel 2000. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with the idea Nd4-f5 gave White a strong initiative in the game Radjabov - Toth, Biel 2000.' ]

**15.f4** -0.15/25 White has a wide choice and he usually developed his queen towards the K-side. White has a wide choice and he usually developed his queen towards the K-side.

[ In the game Kramnik - Anand, Dortmund 2003 White did not achieve much after In the game Kramnik - Anand, Dortmund 2003 White did not achieve much after 15.Qg4 h5 16.Qh3 -0.24/21 ( *16.Qe2⩲ 0.31/21* ) 16...Ke7 0.19/22 ( *16...h4 -0.24/21* deserves consideration.) 17.f4 h4 18.Qf3 Rac8 and after Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and after'' 19.e5 Qxc3 20.exf6+ Kxf6 21.Qxc3 Rxc3 a draw was agreed. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'a draw was agreed.'' ]

[ 15.Qh5 has been tried in some games: Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) has been tried in some games:'

**A)** 15...Nc5! 16.Rb4! Qe5! 17.Qxe5 fxe5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 0-0-0 20.f4!⩲ gave White a small advantage in the game Gulko - Salov, Linares 1990 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'gave White a small advantage in the game Gulko - Salov, Linares 1990';

**B)** while 15...0-0? 1.42/21 15...Nc5 0.52 is too risky and after 16.Rbd1 Nc5 1.90/20 Wards off Rd3 ( *16...Qe5± 1.48/21* keeps fighting. *17.Qg4+ Kh8* ) 17.f4± 0.48/21 White launched a direct attack against Black's king in Szeberenyi - Antal, Budapest 2000 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'White launched a direct attack against Black's king in Szeberenyi - Antal, Budapest 2000' ( *17.Qh4!+- 1.90/20* );

**C)** 15...Nc5⩲ 0.45/21;

**D)** 15...Ke7 1.05/22 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'while'

**D1)** an interesting knight sacrifice 16.Rfe1 0.53/21 16.f4 1.03 Rac8 0.91/20 ( *16...Rag8⩲ 0.53/21* ) 17.Nf5+?! 0.00/24 can be parried with precise defence: Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'can be parried with precise defence:' ( *17.e5!± 0.91/20 fxe5 18.Nf3* ) 17...exf5= 18.exf5+ Kd8! 19.Qxf7 Qc4! 20.Qe7+ -0.56/5 ( *20.Re6= 0.00/24 Qd3 21.Ree1* ) 20...Kc7∓ 21.Rbd1 White threatens Qd6+ and mate. Rcd8! 22.Re4 Qc6! Dodges Qd6+ 23.Re6

**D1a)** 23...Qb5!? 24.Red6 Rhe8 ( *24...Qxf5? 25.R6d5+-* ) 25.Qxh7 Kc8=;

**D1b)** 23...Qa4 24.Rd4! and here in the game Schafranietz - Meessen, Eppingen 2004 Black should have played the brave Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'and here in the game Schafranietz - Meessen, Eppingen 2004 Black should have played the brave' Qxa2! 25.Red6 -1.50/25 ( *25.g3!= 0.00/24* ) 25...Kc8∓ with the idea ...Rh8-e8 since White couldn't take the knight: 26.Rxd7?? -#4/15 ( *26.h4∓ -1.25/23 Rhe8 27.Qxh7* ) 26...Qa1+ 27.Rd1 Qxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rxd1+ checkmate;

**D2)** 16.Kh1± 1.05/22;

**D3)** 16.Rfd1 0.34/19 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'an interesting knight sacrifice'

**D3a)** the game Schmidt - Tukmakov, Koszalin 1999 continued the game Schmidt - Tukmakov, Koszalin 1999 continued 16...Rad8 1.42/17 16...b5 0.46 17.Rd3 0.36/18 ( *17.f4± 1.42/17* ) 17...Ne5⩲ 18.Rg3 -0.24/21 ( *18.Re3⩲ 0.34/19* ) 18...Ng6 0.78/19 ( *18...Rhg8= -0.24/21* ) 19.Qd1 -0.25/21 ( *19.Qh6± 0.78/19* ) 19...Rd7= 20.Qb3 Rc8∞ with unclear play;

**D3b)** 16...b5!⩲ 0.34/19;

**D3c)** 16...Rac8 1.11/19 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'the game Schmidt - Tukmakov, Koszalin 1999 continued' 17.Qh4 0.00/22 ( *17.f4!± 1.11/19* ) 17...b5∞ 0.37/19 with acceptable play for Black, Pelletier - Brunner, Biel 1994. Then White's attempt to develop the initiative by Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with acceptable play for Black, Pelletier - Brunner, Biel 1994. Then White's attempt to develop the initiative by' ( *17...Rhd8= 0.00/22* ) 18.f4?!⩲ was well met by the principled Qxc3 1.19/20 ( *18...Qb6!⩲ 0.66/19* ) 19.Rb3± Qc5 20.h3 0.38/21 ( *20.e5± 0.93/20* ) 20...Rhd8!⩲ 21.Kh1 Nf8! 22.Rbd3 e5 would now be deadly. Ng6 23.Qf2 -0.22/23 ( *⌓23.Qh6 0.24/22* ) 23...Qc7 and White had yet to prove his compensation for the pawn. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'and White had yet to prove his compensation for the pawn.' ]

[ Finally, in the game Gyimesi - Hoelzl, Balatonlelle 2002 Black was able to secure his king on the K-side after Finally, in the game Gyimesi - Hoelzl, Balatonlelle 2002 Black was able to secure his king on the K-side after 15.Qe2 0.12/20 15.Qh5 0.49 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' 0-0 16.Rfd1 Kh8 17.Rd3 0.00/24 ( *17.Qf3⩲ 0.54/24* ) 17...Rg8∞ with acceptable play. ]

[ 15.Qh5⩲ 0.38/19 Ke7 16.Nf3 ]

**15...h5** 0.31/22 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'As you have already realised, in such a position Black's main problem is the vulnerability of his king and he has a logical choice - to keep it in the center or to move it to either flank. Every such action must be well planned - sometimes it might work, sometimes it is too risky. In the game Gyimesi - Acs, Lillafured 1999 Black successfully tried"

[ As you have already realised, in such a position Black's main problem is the vulnerability of his king and he has a logical choice - to keep it in the center or to move it to either flank. Every such action must be well planned - sometimes it might work, sometimes it is too risky. In the game Gyimesi - Acs, Lillafured 1999 Black successfully tried As you have already realised, in such a position Black's main problem is the vulnerability of his king and he has a logical choice - to keep it in the center or to move it to either flank. Every such action must be well planned - sometimes it might work, sometimes it is too risky. In the game Gyimesi - Acs, Lillafured 1999 Black successfully tried 15...0-0-0!? Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan' 16.Qe2 ( *16.Qf3!?* seemed more energetic*)* 16...Nc5 17.Rb4 ( *17.Nb3 Nd3 18.Qe3 Kb8∞* ) 17...Kb8 18.Rfb1 Rd6 19.Rc4 Rc8 20.Qh5 -0.49/23 ( *20.h3=* 0.00/20 is superior.*)* 20...Rb6⇄ with reasonable counter chances as White's Q-side may also be rather vulnerable. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with reasonable counter chances as White's Q-side may also be rather vulnerable.' ]

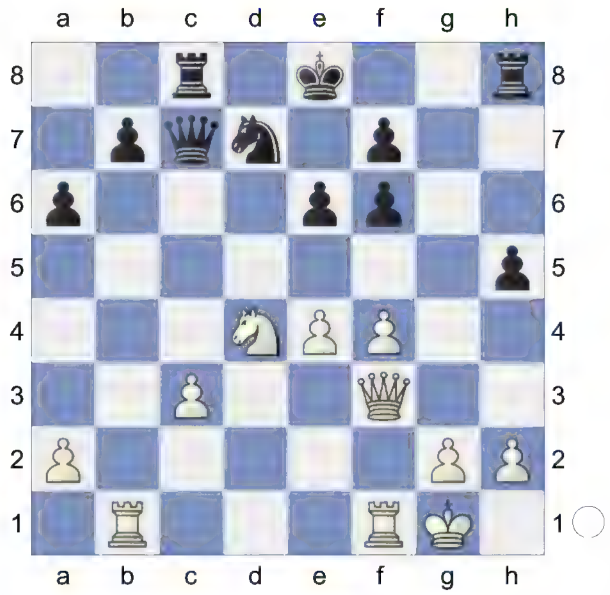
[ 15...0-0-0= -0.15/25 ]

**16.Qf3 Rc8!?N** 0.66/22

[Before Black tried 16...Nc5 0.38/25 16...h4 0.00 but it does not seem fully equalising: Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'but it does not seem fully equalising:'' 17.f5 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and''. fxe6 is the strong threat. *(*both *17.Rb4!?* Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan'*;* and *17.e5!?* -0.25/20 17.Rb4 0.43 were worthy of consideration Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) were worthy of consideration'*)* 17...e5 18.Nc2 Threatens to win with Nb4. Na4 1.07/23 ( *18...Qc6=* 0.24/20 ) 19.c4!± 0-0-0 ( *19...Qxc4?!* 1.21/23 19...0-0-0 0.85 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' *20.Ne3↑* ) 20.Kh1 0.86/23 ( *⌓20.Nb4* 1.33/25 ) 20...Rd2 1.29/20 ( *⌓20...Rd4* 0.86/23 ) 21.Nb4!± Strongly threatening Nd5. Nc5 22.Rfd1 0.67/21 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'the immediate'' *(*the immediate *22.Nd5!?* was rather interesting Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) was rather interesting'*;* *22.Nd5±* 1.47/22 *Qd6 23.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1* ) 22...Rhd8!⩲ 23.Nd5 0.43/19 *(*White should play *23.Rxd2±* 0.86/27 *Rxd2 24.Nd5* ) 23...Qa5!⩲ This position has been reached in the game Grynszpan - Gomez Baillo, ARG-ch Buenos Aires 1988.Here Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'This position has been reached in the game Grynszpan - Gomez Baillo, ARG-ch Buenos Aires 1988. Here'' This position has been reached in the game Grynszpan - Gomez Baillo, ARG-ch Buenos Aires 1988.Here 24.Qe3 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' ( *24.Rxd2?!* 0.00/23 24.Qe3 0.57 Boudy Bueno, Julio: ''?!' Scherbakov, Ruslan.' *Qxd2 25.Qa3* has led to a forced draw after Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'has led to a forced draw after'' *Nxe4 26.Qe7 Nf2+!* Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' *27.Kg1 Nh3+!*

*28.Kh1!= )* 24...Rxd1+ 1.48/22 *( 24...Rxa2=* 0.00/22 *25.Qf3 Kb8 )* 25.Rxd1⩲ could have secured the better chances for White. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'could have secured the better chances for White.' ]

[ 16...h4= 0.08/25 ]



A new continuation. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "N!?' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Before Black tried'' **17.e5!** 0.07/22 A logical pawn push. Since Black decided to keep his king in the center White is trying to open central files. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "!' Scherbakov, Ruslan. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'A logical pawn push. Since Black decided to keep his king in the center White is trying to open central files.". White is more active.

**17...b6**

[ The endgame after The endgame after 17...Qxc3 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' 18.Qxc3 Rxc3 19.Rxb7↑ was far from drawish ]

[while 17...b5 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' 18.Rbd1↑ -0.34/20 could hardly stop White's forthcoming breakthrough in the center. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'could hardly stop White's forthcoming breakthrough in the center.' ( Better is *18.a4=* 0.29/22 *bxa4 19.Rb7 Qxc3 20.Qxc3 Rxc3 21.Rd1 )*]

[ 17...fxe5 1.54/27 17...Qxc3 0.04 Boudy Bueno, Julio 18.fxe5 Rf8 19.Qxh5 Qxe5 20.Qxe5 0.60/17 *( 20.Qf3±* 1.47/20 *)* 20...Nxe5⩲ 21.Rxb7 ]

**18.exf6?!** A natural but probably not the best continuation. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "?!' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'A natural but probably not the best continuation."

[ 18.f5! seemed more energetic: Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov, Ruslan) seemed more energetic:' Qxc3 *( 18...Nxe5? 19.Qg3↑ )*

**A)** 19.Qxc3?! was fine for Black: Rxc3 20.Rfc1 *( 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.exf6 Kf7 )* 20...Rxc1+ 21.Rxc1 Nc5 22.exf6 Rh6 23.fxe6! Rxf6 24.exf7+ Kxf7=;

**B)** 19.Qf2! fxe5 *( 19...Nxe5* White must now prevent ...Ng4. *20.fxe6 Ng4 21.Qf4↑ )* 20.fxe6 Qxd4 21.exd7+ Qxd7 22.Rbe1!?↑ with a strong initiative. However, Black's position still looks defendable: Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with a strong initiative. However, Black's position still looks defendable:' Rc6 23.Rxe5+ Kf8! and so on. ]

**18...Qxc3 19.Qe4**

[ 19.Qxc3 simplifies Rxc3 20.Rfd1 Rc7 21.Nf3 ]

**19...Nxf6**

[ 19...Nc5!? 20.Qe5□ Nd7± ]

**20.Qe5 Rh6 21.f5?!** -0.94/25 Again, White's play is very consistent but it is not proved by concrete variations. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "?!' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Again, White's play is very consistent but it is not proved by concrete variations."

[ 21.Rfe1=∞ should have been preferred although Black could already decide whether to force a draw by Boudy Bueno, Julio: "=∞' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'should have been preferred although Black could already decide whether to force a draw by" Ng4 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan' 22.Qe4 Nf6 or to think about something else. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'or to think about something else.' ]

[ 21.Rxb6? Nd7 22.Qd6 Nxb6 23.Qxb6 Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Kf8-+ ]

[ 21.h3= 0.00/28 remains equal. ]

**21...Ng4∓** **22.Qg7** -2.23/26 Following the same wrong strategy - Black has sufficient resources both in defence and in counter attack. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "?!' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Following the same wrong strategy - Black has sufficient resources both in defence and in counter attack."

[ 22.Qe4 was more tenacious: Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was more tenacious:'' Qc7!? Boudy Bueno, Julio: "!?' Scherbakov, Ruslan. ' 23.g3 -1.29/22 ( *⌓23.Nf3 -0.89/23* ) 23...e5∓ and in this complicated position Black has one extra pawn in his pocket. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "∓' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and in this complicated position Black has one extra pawn in his pocket." ]

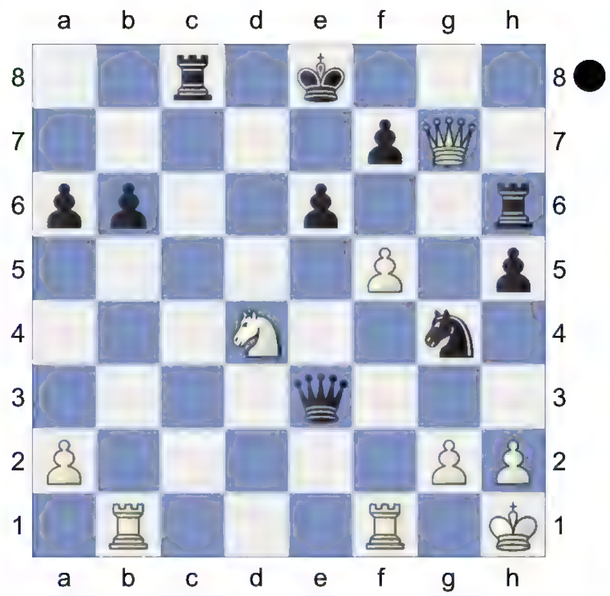
[ 22.Qe4∓ -0.93/25 e5 23.Nb3 Qe3+ 24.Qxe3 Nxe3 25.Rf3 ]

**22...Qe3+?** -0.95/22 A very tempting idea but it seems that Black had the better option! Boudy Bueno, Julio: "?' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'A very tempting idea but it seems that Black had the better option!"

[ 22...Rf6! was stronger: Boudy Bueno, Julio: '(Scherbakov,Ruslan) was stronger:' 23.Rbd1 -3.29/22 ( *⌓23.Nxe6 -2.02/23 fxe6 24.h3* ) 23...Qe3+-+ 24.Kh1 Ke7!-+ and Black was winning. ]

[ 22...Rf6!-+ -2.23/26 is more deadly. 23.Nf3 Rxf5 Discovered Attack ( *23...exf5 24.h3±* ) 24.Qxc3 Rxc3 25.Rxb6 Ra3 ]

**23.Kh1**



**Rc1!!** Inviting White's rook to the c1-square. Boudy Bueno, Julio: "!!' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Inviting White's rook to the c1-square.". Deflection, Back Rank

**24.h3**

[ 24.Rbxc1?? -#4/14 24.h3 -1.42 has led to a well-known mating combination: Boudy Bueno, Julio: "??' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'has led to a well-known mating combination:" Nf2+ 25.Kg1

( *25.Rxf2* Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' *Qxc1+ )* 25...Nh3+ 26.Kh1 Qg1+! Boudy Bueno, Julio: "!' Scherbakov, Ruslan. ' 27.Rxg1 Nf2# ]

[ 24.Rbxc1 Nf2+ 25.Kg1 Nh3+ 26.Kh1 Qg1+!! 27.Rxg1 Nf2# ]

[ 24.Qg8+ Ke7 25.h3 Rxb1 26.f6+ Rxf6 27.Nc6+ Kd6 28.Rxb1 Nf2+ 29.Kh2 Kxc6-+ ]

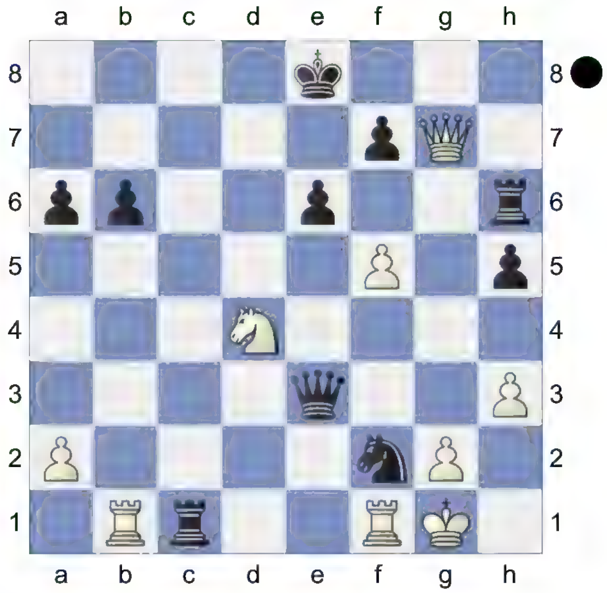
**24...Nf2+** -0.29/25

[ 24...Qf4! Boudy Bueno, Julio 25.Nf3 Nf2+! 26.Kg1 Nxh3+! 27.Kh1 Nf2+ 28.Kg1 Rxb1 29.Rxb1 Ng4 ]

[Black should try 24...Qf4!∓ -0.95/25 25.Qg8+ ( *25.Rbxc1? Qh2#* ) 25...Ke7 26.f6+ ( *26.Nc6+ Kf6∓* ) 26...Nxf6 ( *26...Qxf6? 27.Rbxc1+-* ) 27.Rbxc1 Qxf1+ ( *27...Qxd4? 28.Rc7+ Kd6 29.Qb8+-* ) 28.Rxf1 Nxg8 ]

**25.Kg1=**

[ 25.Kh2! -1.10/28 25.Kg1 -0.40 was correct and it seems that Black had no wins: Boudy Bueno, Julio: ''!' Scherbakov,Ruslan. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'was correct and it seems that Black had no wins:'' Qf4+ ( or *25...Rxb1* 0.00/31 25...Ng4+ -1.35 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan' *26.Rxb1 Ng4+ 27.Kh1! Qf4 28.Nf3!* Prevents Qh2+ *Nf2+ 29.Kg1 Nxh3+ 30.gxh3 Qxf5 31.Qxh6 Qxb1+ 32.Kf2 Qxa2+ 33.Kg3 Qd5 34.Qf6* and White cannot lose) 26.g3 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan' Ng4+ ( *26...Qd2* ( -> ...Ng4+) *27.Nf3! Ng4+ 28.Kh1 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1=; 26...Qd2!? 27.Nf3□ Ng4+ 28.Kh1 Rxf1+ 29.Rxf1 Qd3=* ) 27.Qxg4! Threatening mate with Qg8+. Qxf1 28.Qg8+ Kd7! 29.fxe6+ Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'after' ( after *29.Qxf7+ Kd6! 30.Qf8+ Kd5! 31.Qd8+! Ke4* Black's king could escape ) 29...fxe6 30.Qg7+! Kd6 and here White could escape only by Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'and here White could escape only by' ( *30...Kc8!? 31.Qg8+□ Kb7 32.Qg7+ Ka8 33.Qg8+ Kb7 34.Rxc1 Qxc1 35.Qf7+ Kb8 36.Qf8+ Kb7 37.Qf7+ Kc8 38.Qe8+ Kb7 39.Qf7+=* ) 31.Nf5+! Qxf5 32.Rxc1 Qf2+ 33.Kh1 White wants to mate with Rd1+. Qf3+= with perpetual check. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'with perpetual check.' ]



The position is very complicated and mistakes are quite possible, especially under time pressure. The position is very complicated and mistakes are quite possible, especially under time pressure. Some like it hot **25...Ng4+!** Black returns the favour. Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Draw agreed. "

[ Black could have secured his advantage by Black could have secured his advantage by 25...Nxh3+! 0.00/22 25...Ng4+ -1.39 Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan' 26.Kh2 Rxb1 27.Rxb1 e5! 28.Nf3 -0.72/23 *( 28.Ne6=* 0.00/26 *fxe6 29.Qg8+ Ke7 30.Qg7+ Kd6 31.Rd1+ Kc5 32.Qf8+ Kc4 33.Rc1+ Qxc1 34.Qc8+* Skewer, Double Attack *Kd5 35.Qxc1 )* 28...Nf2!∓ Hoping for ...Ng4+.

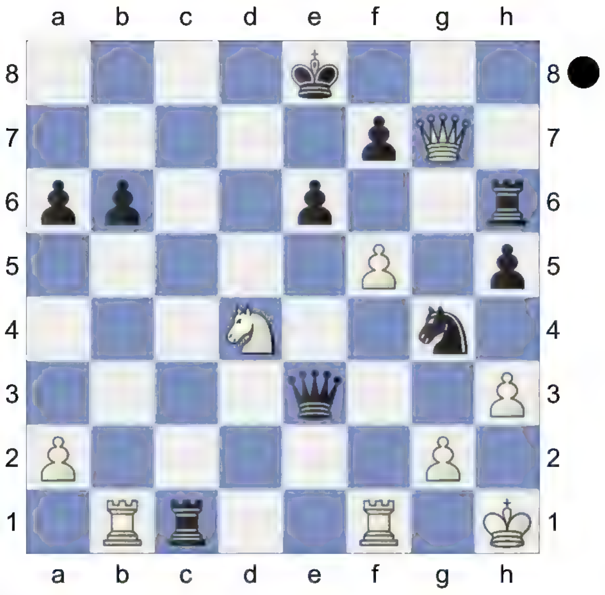
A) or 29.Qg8+? -2.04/18 29.Qxe5+ -0.46 Ke7 30.Qc8? -3.59/19 Against Rc6 *( 30.Ng5∓* -1.56/18 *)* 30...Ng4+-+ 31.Kh1 Qc5;

B) 29.Qxe5+ Boudy Bueno, Julio: 'or' 29...Qxe5+ 30.Nxe5 Rf6!∓ with reasonable winning chances. ]

[ 25...Rxb1 Boudy Bueno, Julio 26.Rxb1 e5 27.Nc2 Nxh3+ 28.Kh2 Qf4+ 29.Kxh3 aiming for Rd1. Qxf5+ 30.Kh2 Qxc2 31.Rf1 Qg6 32.Qxe5+ Kf8! And now ...Qd6 would win. 33.Qb8+! Kg7 ]

[ 25...Nxh3+?! 26.Kh2 Rxf1 27.Rxf1= ]

**26.Kh1**



**Nf2+** -0.08/23

[ 26...Qf4!∓ -1.00/25 27.Qg8+ *( 27.Rbxc1? Qh2# )* 27...Ke7 28.f6+ *( 28.Nc6+ Kf6∓ )* 28...Nxf6 *( 28...Qxf6?* is the wrong capture. *29.Rbxc1 Nf2+ 30.Rxf2+- )* 29.Rbxc1 Qxf1+ *( 29...Qxd4?* too greedy. *30.Rc7+ Kd6 31.Qd8+ Ke5 32.Rf5+* Deflection *Kxf5 33.Qxd4+- )* 30.Rxf1 Nxg8 ]

**27.Kg1 Ng4+** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.26 (precise) /Black=0.33

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Georgiev,Kiril** **2648**

■ **Perunovic,Milos** **2514**

SCG First League (1) 17.10.2005

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The 7. e5 line has not been played a lot in recent practice. In case of White's Q-side castling Black gets good play by sacrificing a piece for a strong pawn center while if White prefers a safer approach then Black has few problems to complete his development. The only drawback of his position is the damaged K-side pawn structure so he must be careful with his king. In the featured game he somehow managed to forget about this and was badly punished for that in the harmless looking endgame.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!''Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The 7. e5 line has not been played a lot in recent practice. In case of White's Q-side castling Black gets good play by sacrificing a piece for a strong pawn center while if White prefers a safer approach then Black has few problems to complete his development. The only drawback of his position is the damaged K-side pawn structure so he must be careful with his king. In the featured game he somehow managed to forget about this and was badly punished for that in the harmless looking endgame. '

**1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.e5**

[ 7.Bxc4 is the main continuation. ]

**7...cxd4**

[ 7...h6 is a sharp and more risky alternative. ]

**8.Nxd4** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'An old main line'

[An old main line 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4 Rc8 is known to be good for Black. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'is known to be good for Black.' ]

**8...Bxc3+**

[ 8...Qa5 leads to the same after 9.exf6 Bxc3+ *(but not 9...Qxg5?? 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Bd7 13.Qb4!+- )* 10.bxc3 Qxg5 11.fxg7 Qxg7 and so on. ]

**9.bxc3 Qa5 10.exf6 Qxg5 11.fxg7 Qxg7** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and so on.'

**12.Qf3** Protecting the g2-pawn and at the same time trying to prevent the development of Black's Q-side pieces, which usually doesn't work well. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Protecting the g2-pawn and at the same time trying to prevent the development of Black's Q-side pieces, which usually doesn't work well.'

[ 12.Qd2 is more popular recently, not covering the 3rd rank, which might be used for the rook's transfer to the open g-file. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'is more popular recently, not covering the 3rd rank, which might be used for the rook's transfer to the open g-file.' ]

**12...Nd7 13.Bxc4 0-0 14.Bb3** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In order to secure his bishop White also tried another retreat'

[ In order to secure his bishop White also tried another retreat 14.Be2 but failed to achieve good prospects: Nc5 *( 14...Ne5 15.Qe3 Ng6!* was also acceptable for Black, Polugaevsky - Inkiov, Zagreb 1987 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was also acceptable for Black, Polugaevsky - Inkiov, Zagreb 1987'*)* 15.0-0 b6! 16.Rfe1 *( 16.Qxa8?* -1.29/21 16.Rfe1 0.13 *Bb7 )* 16...Bb7 17.Qh3! Rad8 with a good play, Gaprindashvili

- Litinskaya, Tskhaltubo 1988. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with a good play, Gaprindashvili - Litinskaya, Tskhaltubo 1988.' ]

**14...Nc5** The position is equal.

[ 14...Qe5+!? deserves serious attention: 15.Ne2!? ( *15.Kd2 -0.12/20* 15.Ne2 0.37 *Qg5+ 16.Qe3 Qxe3+ 17.Kxe3 Nc5 18.Bc2 Bd7* led to a good endgame for Black in Muse - Adamski, Belgrade 1987 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'led to a good endgame for Black in Muse - Adamski, Belgrade 1987' *)* 15...Nc5 16.0-0 Bd7 17.Nd4! and White may still hope for some edge. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and White may still hope for some edge.'. Repels Bc6 ]

[ 14...Qf6 simplifies 15.Qh5 Qe5+ 16.Qxe5 Nxe5 17.0-0-0 Ng4 ]

**15.Bc2**

[ 15.0-0 can be strongly met by b6!

**A)** 16.Qxa8? -1.21/23 16.Qe3 0.13 Bb7 17.Qxf8+ -2.08/21 ( *17.Qxb7∓ -1.39/26* might work better. *Nxb7 18.Rfe1* ) 17...Kxf8-+ 18.f3 Qg5 19.Bc2 Qe3+ 20.Rf2 -2.41/19 ( *20.Kh1 -1.94/21* is a better defense. ) 20...Ba6∓ was clearly better for Black in the game Komarov - Huzman, Norilsk 1987 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was clearly better for Black in the game Komarov - Huzman, Norilsk 1987';

**B)** 16.Rfe1 Bb7 17.Qh3 Kh8 ( *17...Nd3!?* was maybe even stronger; *17...Nd3!? 18.Red1 Nf4=* ) 18.Re3 Rg8 19.f3 -0.55/23 ( *19.Rg3= 0.20/23 Qf6 20.Bc2* ) 19...Qf6 20.Bc2 Rg7 and Black has achieved the better chances, Klimov - Ovod, St. Petersburg 2002. ]

**15...Qe5+** 0.67/19 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'However, Black's position looks fine and it can probably be proved by the energetic'

[ An attempt to get rid of White's strong bishop by 15...Bd7 0.45/21 15...e5 -0.21 16.0-0! Ba4?! is slow and in the game Kir.Georgiev - Sosonko, Wijk aan Zee 1988 White got the upper hand after Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'is slow and in the game Kir. Georgiev - Sosonko, Wijk aan Zee 1988 White got the upper hand after' 17.Bxa4 Nxa4 18.Rab1 Nc5 19.Rb4!↑ taking aim at the Black king. ]

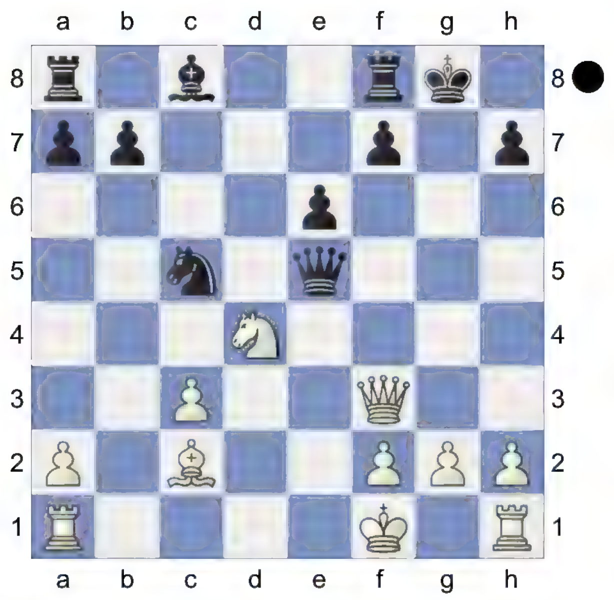
[ However, Black's position looks fine and it can probably be proved by the energetic 15...e5! The game Tsesarsky - Ruban, USSR 1988 continued Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The game Tsesarsky - Ruban, USSR 1988 continued' 16.Nf5 -1.04/22 ( *16.Ne2= -0.06/22* ) 16...e4!∓ 17.Nxg7! exf3 18.Nh5 and here Black could have secured his superiority by Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and here Black could have secured his superiority by' Re8+! 19.Kf1 aiming for Nf6+. Re5∓ It remains unclear how Kiril Georgiev was going to continue in case of Black's pawn advance... Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It remains unclear how Kiril Georgiev was going to continue in case of Black's pawn advance...' ]

[ 15...e5= -0.21/20 16.Ne2 Bg4 ]

**16.Kf1** -0.19/20

[ 16.Ne2± 0.67/19 ]

(Diagram)



White is more active. **16...b6!=** A typical way to develop the bishop - the rook is untouchable. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'A typical way to develop the bishop - the rook is untouchable.' **17.Qg3+ Qxg3** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The endgame does not seem bad for Black but it deserved serious attention not to give any help to White's rook to get into play and prefer'

[ The endgame does not seem bad for Black but it deserved serious attention not to give any help to White's rook to get into play and prefer 17...Qg7!? ]

[ 17...Qg7 keeps more tension. 18.Re1 Bb7 19.Re5 h6 ]

**18.hxg3 Ba6+ 19.Kg1 Bd3 20.Bxd3! Nxd3** This was the position Black was probably hoping for. White's Q-side is damaged but the same can be said about Black's opposite flank and now White has no choice but to try and exploit this drawback. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'This was the position Black was probably hoping for. White's Q-side is damaged but the same can be said about Black's opposite flank and now White has no choice but to try and exploit this drawback.' **21.Rd1 Nb2 22.Rb1 Na4 23.Rb5! Nxc3?!** Black does not feel the danger. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It is always dangerous to play with the cornered king so its advance was advisable:'

[ It is always dangerous to play with the cornered king so its advance was advisable: 23...Kg7! with good play. Then even if White wins the h7-pawn he will not get a passed pawn and actually White's task was to develop an initiative, which may bring something more substantial. For his part Black's task was to keep his king in safety and the e7-square was quite suitable... Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with good play. Then even if White wins the h7-pawn he will not get a passed pawn and actually White's task was to develop an initiative, which may bring something more substantial. For his part Black's task was to keep his king in safety and the e7-square was quite suitable...' ]

**24.Rg5+ Kh8** And now ...Rg8! would win. **25.Rgh5 Rad8?** 4.55/32 The wrong time to think about development. Moreover, placing the rook here makes the e7-square unavailable for the king. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The wrong time to think about development. Moreover, placing the rook here makes the e7-square unavailable for the king.'. White now steadily converts the win.

[ 25...Kg7! still had to be played, moving the king from the danger zone but here White could already create some threats, for example: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'still had to be played, moving the king from the danger zone but here White could already create some threats, for example:' 26.Rxh7+ Kf6 27.Nc6!? Black must now prevent R1h6+. Rg8! 28.f4!? Threatens to win with R1h6+.

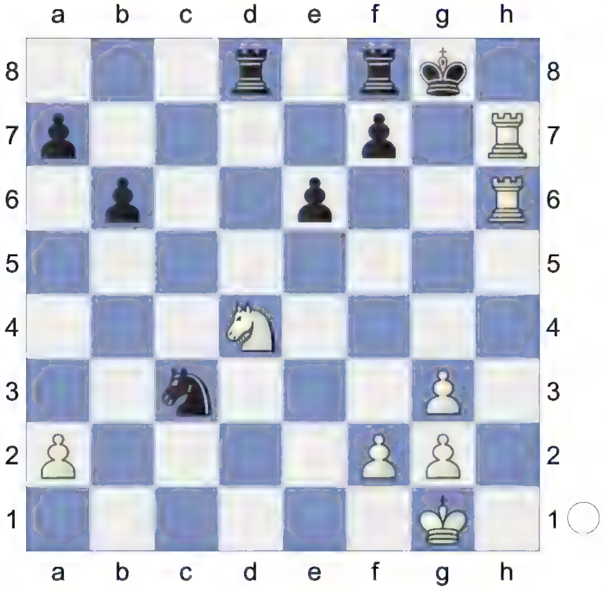
**A)** 28...Raf8 0.38/22 28...Rxg3 0.00 29.Kf2 0.00/19 ( *29.Ne5⩲* 0.38/22 deserves consideration. );

**B)** 28...Rxg3 29.R1h6+ Rg6 ...Ne2+ would now be deadly. 30.Ne5 , winning the exchange. However, in the position after Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', winning the exchange. However, in the position after' Ne2+ ( *30...Rxh6?? #1/16* 30...Ne2+ 0.00 *31.Rxf7#* ) 31.Kf2 Nxf4 32.Nxg6 Nxg6 33.Rh3⩲ should be drawish. ]

[ 25...Nxa2? perishes. 26.Rxh7+ Kg8 27.Nc6+- ( *27.Rh8+?! Kg7+-* )]

[ 25...Nd5= 0.00/30 and Black is okay. ]

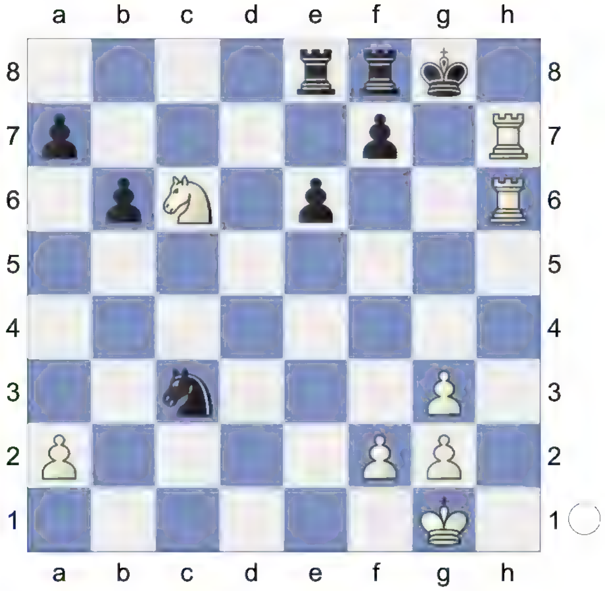
**26.Rxh7++- Kg8** Hoping for ...Ne2+! **27.Rh8+ Kg7 28.R1h7+! Kg6 29.Rh6+! Kg7** White is clearly winning. **30.R8h7+ Kg8**



**31.Nc6 Nd5** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or'. Wards off Ne7+

[There was no defence: 31...Rd7? 32.Rh8+ Kg7 33.R6h7+ Kg6 34.Ne5+ ]

[or 31...Rde8



32.Ne5! Rd8 33.Rh8+ Kg7 34.R6h7+ Kf6 35.Rxf8 Rxf8 36.Nd7++- ]

**32.Nxd8 Rxd8** Endgame. KRR-KRN **33.Rh8+** Skewer **33...Kg7 34.R6h7+ Kg6 35.Rxd8 Kxh7 36.Rd7** The rest is easy. **36...a5 37.Rxf7+ Kg6 38.Rb7 Kf5 39.f3 Ke5 40.g4** Black resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.54

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Potkin,Vladimir** **2547**

■ **Kharlov,Andrei** **2555**

RUS-chT Sochi (7) 26.04.2006

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Vladimir Potkin came up with a surprising attempt to put pressure on Black in the Vienna Variation - he just sacrificed his central pawn and got excellent compensation thanks to his comfortable development. This option has never been seriously taken into consideration but perhaps a new chapter is going to be written in the Vienna history...

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4!?** A rather unexpected attempt to fight against the Vienna Variation - White simply gives up his central pawn! **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3**

[ In the game Gustafsson - Aronian, playchess.com 2004 White achieved the better chances after 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Be7 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3± ]

**8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7**

[The greedy 8...Bxc3?! is too suspicious:

A) 9.Ba3 0.01/21 9.Rb1 0.76 Bxa1 0.41/18 *( 9...a5!= 0.01/21 )* 10.Qxa1=∞ with compensation, looks interesting as well, Olsson - Krebs, corr. 2000;

B) 9.Rb1! c5!? *(in case of 9...0-0* 1.79/19 9...c5 1.06 *10.Qd3* followed by Nf3-g5 White's initiative looked almost decisive*)* 10.Bg5 f6 11.Qb3!?

B1) 11...fxg5 0.99/20 11...cxd4 0.45 12.Bxe6↑ 0.21/19 *( 12.Qxc3±* 0.99/20 *0-0 13.dxc5 )*;

B2) 11...cxd4 12.Bxe6!↑ with a strong initiative against Black's centralized king. ]

**9.Ne5** Thank to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin his attack. White has compensation. **9...0-0**

[ 9...Nd7 10.Qg4 0-0 1.05/20 *( 10...Nxe5±* 0.33/22 *11.dxe5 Kf8 )* 11.Bh6± Bf6 12.Rfe1 Kh8 13.Bf4=∞ gave White excellent compensation for the pawn in the game Gustafsson - Landa, playchess.com 2004. ]

**10.Qg4**

[ In the game Arbakov - Kishnev, Moscow 1989 White played slowly: 10.Qe2 Nd7 11.Bb3 -0.10/23 *( ⌓11.Rd1* 0.30/17 *)* 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bd7 13.Rd1 Qe8! but still obtained reasonable compensation for the pawn after 14.Qg4 Kh8 0.54/23 *( 14...f5=* 0.00/24 *15.Qc4 Kh8 )* 15.Bc2=∞ ]

**10...Nc6 11.Bh6**

[ 11.Re1 simplifies f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re2 *( 14.Re1 c5 15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1* 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3-Bundan,E corr URS-chT 2nd 1971 *)*]

**11...Bf6 12.f4=∞** -0.36/25 White has achieved excellent compensation for the pawn - his pieces are comfortably developed and he can continue further improvement using his space advantage. However, Black has a solid position although he must defend very carefully.

[White should try 12.Rfe1= 0.18/19 ]

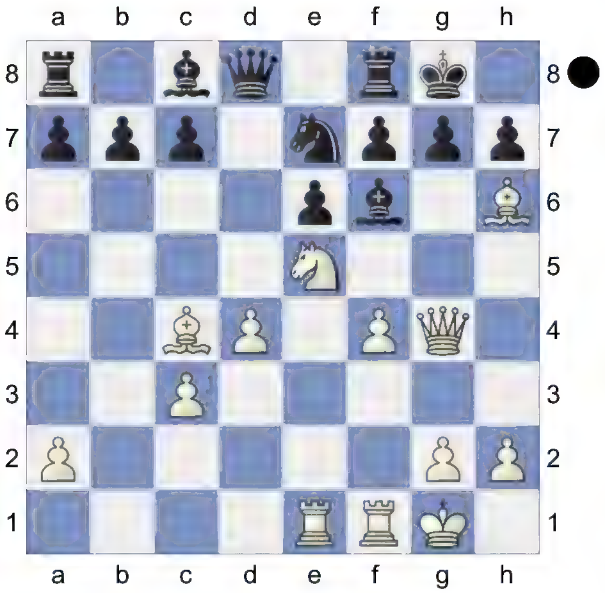
[ 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 21.Nxd8 Bxf3 22.Nxf7 Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**12...Ne7 13.Rae1**

(Diagram)

**c5N**

[ 13...Ng6 14.Bg5 c5 15.Rf3 b5 16.Bd3 Bb7 17.Rh3 Qd5 18.Bxf6 Qxg2+ 19.Qxg2 Bxg2 20.Kxg2 Nxf4+ 21.Kg3 Nxh3 22.Be7



Cheparinov,I (2650)-Franco Alonso,A (2454) 113/(146) San Sebastian 2011 Ng5 23.Bxf8 cxd4 24.Be7 f6 25.cxd4 Re8 26.Nc6 Cheparinov,I (2640)-Quesada Perez,Y (2515) 99/(115) Morella 2007 ]

**14.Bg5**

[An immediate 14.dxc5!? was also worthy of consideration. ]

**14...Nf5 15.dxc5 Bxg5** 0.37/21

[ 15...Be7!= -0.19/21 ]

**16.fxg5⩲**

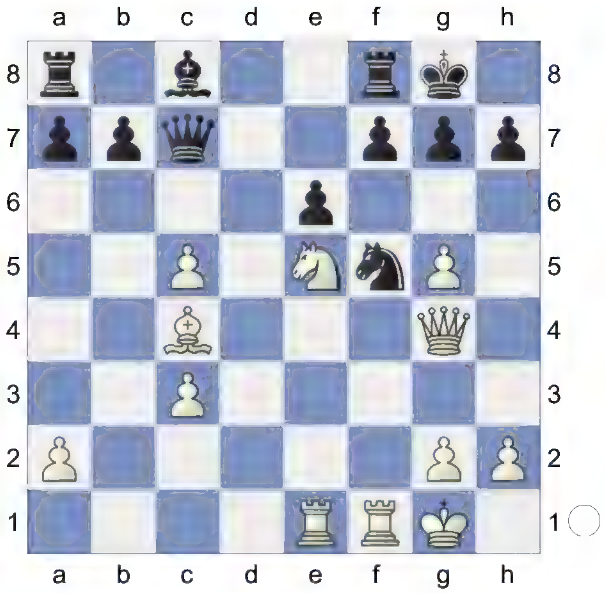
[ 16.Qxg5 Qa5 17.c6 Qxc3⩱ ]

**16...Qc7**

(Diagram)

**17.c6 bxc6 18.Rf3** White's attacking strategy looks logical but it actually does not promise much. White has more active pieces. The black rooks are passive.

[ 18.Qh3!? 0.00/20 18.Rf2 0.75 looked interesting, intending to meet Ba6? 2.19/23 with the astonishing *( 18...Qe7!= 0.00/20* and Black is okay. *)* 19.Rxf5!+- g6 is the strong threat. Bxc4 *(*or *19...exf5? 7.11/27*



19...Bxc4 2.79 *20.g6!+-* with a quick checkmate *)* 20.g6! hxg6 21.Rf4!+- with a decisive advantage. ]

**18...Ba6!** Swapping White's dangerous attacking piece. Decoy **19.Bxa6** 0.00/24

[ 19.Bb3!⩲ 0.52/21 ]

**19...Qb6+= 20.Kh1 Qxa6 21.Nd7**

[In case of 21.Rh3 Black would continue by. Strongly threatening Qh5. Qxa2 22.Qh5 h6 ]

**21...Qxa2!?** 0.48/23 Black prefers to keep his excellent knight on f5 rather than the rook.

[In case of 21...Rfd8 White was going to continue 22.Nf6+! gxf6 23.gxf6+ but Black was OK here: Kh8 24.Rxf5! Rg8! Against Qg7+ 25.Rg5 Qxa2 26.Rg7 White threatens Rxh7+! and mate. Qd2 27.Rf1 *( 27.Rd1!? Qh6□ 28.Rxg8+ Rxg8 29.Qf3= )* 27...Qh6 with acceptable play. ]

[ 21...Rfd8= -0.03/24 22.Nf6+ Kh8 *( 22...gxf6 23.gxf6+ Kh8 24.Rxf5= )*]

**22.Nxf8⩲ Rxf8** Black is all right here - White will hardly get a very dangerous passed pawn while his king will never be completely safe due to its damaged pawn shield. However, in such positions the rook is certainly stronger than the knight so White's chances are till probably a bit better. **23.Rd3 Qa5 24.Red1 Ne7** 1.32/21

[ 24...Qe5⩲ 0.45/22 ]

**25.c4** 0.77/23

[ ⌓25.Qh4! 1.32/21 ]

**25...Nf5± 26.Qf4** 0.43/25

[ 26.Qe4± 0.81/22 ]

**26...h6**

[ 26...c5 27.Rd7 ]

**27.gxh6 Nxh6 28.Rd7 Nf5 29.Qc7 Qa4** Obviously Black wants to keep queens on the board as it gives him counterplay against his opponent's king. **30.c5 Qe4 31.Rd8** Threatens to win with Rxf8+. **31...g6 32.Rxf8+**

[ 32.Qxa7 Rxd8 33.Rxd8+ Kg7 34.Qa1+ e5 ]

**32...Kxf8 33.Qxa7=** Endgame. KQR-KQN **33...e5** This is not the advance of a passed pawn - Black creates a fore post on d4.

[ 33...Ne3 is more complex. 34.Qb8+ Kg7 35.Qb2+ e5 ]

**34.Qa2 Kg7 35.Qf2 Nd4 36.Rf1 Nf5**

[ Black did not want to open his king but 36...f5 wasn't bad. ]

**37.Re1 Qd5 38.Qe2 Kf6** Using all the pieces in defence! **39.Rf1 Ke6 40.Qf2 Qd4?** 1.59/26

[Better is 40...e4= -0.08/24 ]

**41.Qa2+** 0.16/26

[ 41.Qf3!± 1.59/26 Qd5 42.Qxd5+ Kxd5 43.g4 ]

**41...Kf6 42.Qe2 Ke6** 1.34/20

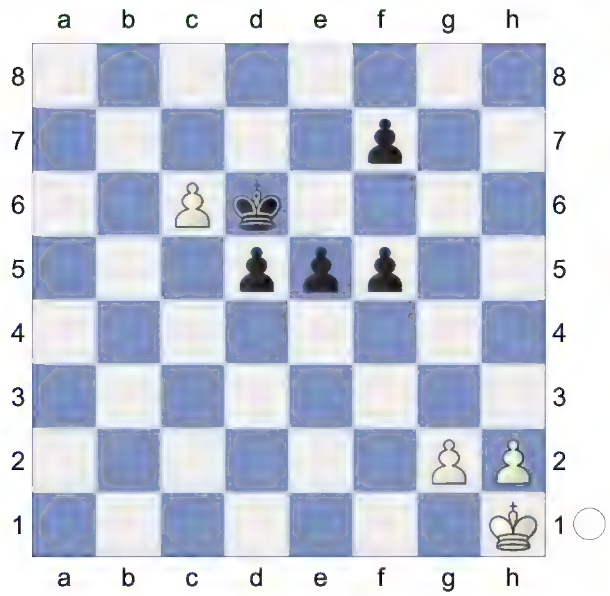
[ 42...Kg7= 0.15/25 keeps the balance. ]

**43.Qf3!± Qd5** 2.03/22

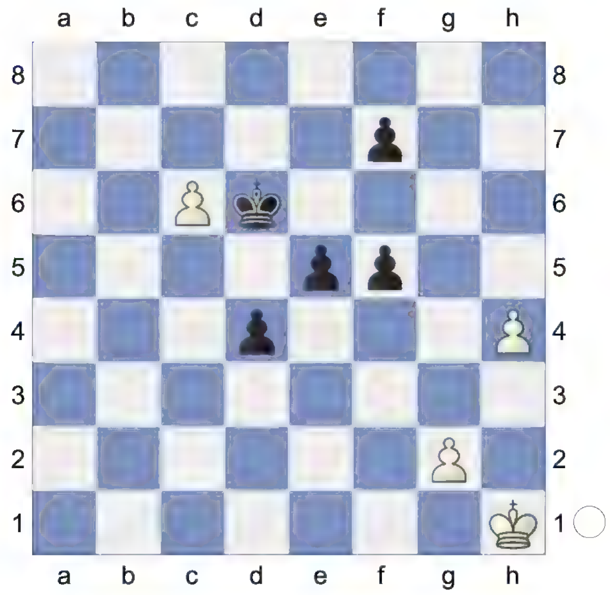
[ 43...e4± 1.32/25 44.Re1 Qxc5 *( 44...Ke5 45.g4± )*]

**44.Qxd5++- cxd5** Suddenly a rather sharp endgame has appeared - both sides have got passed pawns and White is maybe dreaming about another one on the h-file! KR-KN **45.Kg1?** 0.00/35

[ 45.c6! was stronger and it had to be met with. aiming for Rxf5! Nd6! *(but not 45...Kd6?? 6.52/26 45...Nd6 1.74 due to 46.Rxf5! gxf5*



*47.h4! d4*



*48.Kg1!+- )*]

[ 45.c6!+- 1.79/28 Rxf5! would now be deadly. Nd6 46.h4 ]

**45...Ne3=** Now Black can achieve the more active position. The position is equal. **46.Rc1 Kd7!** White must now prevent ...Kc6. **47.c6+ Kc7 48.Kf2 Nc4 49.Ra1** White has to quickly activate his rook. **49...Kxc6 50.Ra7 Kd6**

[ Black was certainly worried about White's possible passer on the h-file, which would appear after 50...Nd6 51.h4 Hoping for g4. d4? 2.14/23 ( *51...Nf5!=* 0.15/21 and Black stays safe. ) 52.g4+- And now Ke1 would win. Kd5 2.55/29 ( *⌓52...Ne4+* 1.84/24 *53.Ke1 Kd5 54.Rxf7 Ke6* ) 53.h5 1.04/25 ( *53.Ke1+-* 2.55/29 has better winning chances. )]

**51.Rxf7 Ke6** Prevents Rf6+. **52.Rg7 Kf5 53.g4+** Decoy **53...Kxg4 54.Rxg6+ Kh3 55.Rh6+ Kg4 56.Rg6+ Kh3 57.Rh6+ Kg4 58.Rg6+** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.14 (very precise) /Black=0.18 (very precise)

**½-½**

**D24**

☐ **Pedersen,Steffen** **2439**

■ **Nielsen,Peter Heine** **2651**

Faaborg Midtfyn Blindfold Cup rapid (5)

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Black's attempt to refute White's exotic pawn sacrifice here was dubious – his greediness caused a lack of development and he would certainly have been punished for that had White been more precise... Black's attempt to refute White's exotic pawn sacrifice here was dubious – his greediness caused a lack of development and he would certainly have been punished for that had White been more precise... Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 ' Black's attempt to refute White's exotic pawn sacrifice here was dubious ↑ his greediness caused a lack of development and he would certainly have been punished for that had White been more precise... **1.d4** Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** This interesting sacrifice still hasn't become popular – White still does not believe in his compensation. This interesting sacrifice still hasn't become popular ↑ White still does not believe in his compensation. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Bxc3** 0.84/19 A novelty which looks suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. A novelty which looks suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development.

[ 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 Black must now prevent Qg4. 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.f4=/∞ -0.34/21 gave White excellent compensation for the pawn, see Potkin - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006. gave White excellent compensation for the pawn, see Potkin - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006. ( *12.Rad1=* 0.29/20 )]

[ 7...Nf6= 0.24/25 ]

**8.bxc3±** White is better. **8...Nxc3 9.Qb3 Nd5 10.Ba3**

[ White could have thought about 10.Re1 0.03/22 10.Ba3 1.04 , intending to meet the logical , intending to meet the logical 0-0 with 11.Ba3 Re8 12.Bxd5! exd5 13.Rxe8+ Qxe8 14.Re1 Be6 15.Qxb7↑ with the initiative. ]

**10...Nc6N** 1.78/21

[ 10...c6± 0.81/19 was necessary. ]

[ 10...a5 11.Ne5 Nb4 12.d5 exd5 13.Bxb4 axb4 14.Bxd5 0-0 15.Bxf7+ Kh8 16.Bc4 Qf6 17.Nf7+ Kg8 18.Qxb4 Nc6 19.Ne5+ Kh8 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.a4 Chapter Vienna Variation-5...Bb4 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Bxc ]

**11.Rfe1!+-** Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): 'last book move' **11...Nce7**

[ 11...Na5? 3.03/21 11...Nce7 1.88 12.Qa4+ Nc6 with the idea ...Nd5-b6 was met by 13.Qb5! Nb6 ( *13...Nde7? 3.88/23 13...Nb6 2.57 14.d5!+-* ) 14.d5! with a very strong initiative: a6 15.Qc5

**A)** 15...Qe7?! aiming for ...Qxc5. 16.dxe6! Qxc5 3.48/19 ( *⌓16...f6* 2.01/20 *17.Bb3 Qxc5 18.Bxc5 Na5* ) 17.exf7++- Kd8 18.Bxc5 Nxc4 19.f8Q+ Rxf8 20.Bxf8+-;

**B)** 15...Qd6 16.Qxb6! Qxa3 17.Qxc7 Qe7 18.Qg3 Na5 19.Bd3 g6 20.Rac1↑ and so on. ]

**12.Bxe7!** There were no other fruitful ideas. **12...Nxe7 13.d5 exd5**

[ 13...Nxd5? 3.30/19 13...c6 2.19 Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) 14.Bxd5 0-0 15.Be4+- ( *15.Bxb7?* -0.83/19 15.Be4 3.21 is much worse *Rb8!∓* )]

**14.Bxd5 0-0**

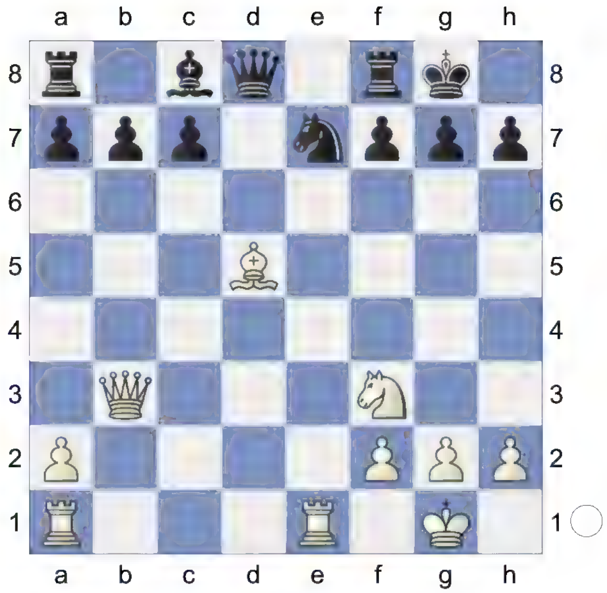
(Diagram)

**15.Bxf7+ Rxf7 16.Rad1** Prevents Nd5. **16...Qf8** Threatens to win with ...Bg4. **17.Ng5** Pin

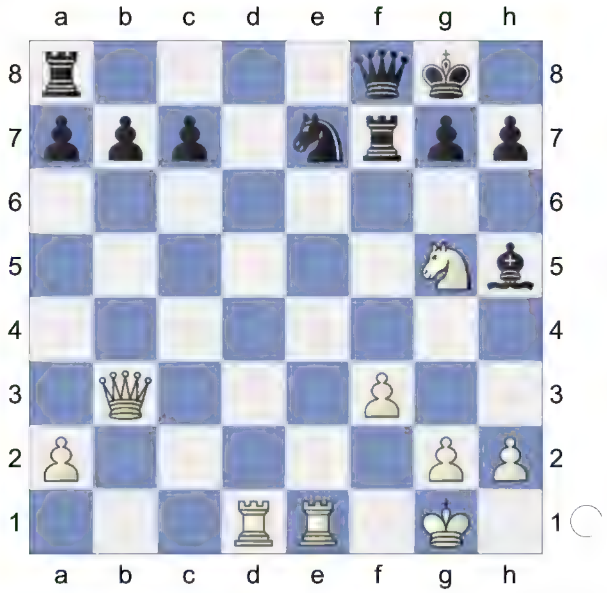
[ 17.Ne5!? also gave better chances for White: Bg4! (the only move) 18.Nxg4 Ng6 Prevents Ne5. 19.Rd7!↑, maintaining the initiative. ]

**17...Bg4 18.f3!**

[ 18.Nxf7? 0.00/39 18.f3 2.08 failed to Bxd1! and White had no more than a perpetual by and White had no more than a perpetual by 19.Nh6+ Kh8 20.Nf7+ Kg8= ]



**18...Bh5**



Hoping for ...Rb8! **19.Rd7??** -0.21/24 This mistake can be explained by the fact that the players did not see the board. This mistake can be explained by the fact that the players did not see the board. Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): 'White threatens to win material: Rd7xe7. gives the opponent counterplay' This mistake can be explained by the fact that the players did not see the board.

[After 19.Ne6! Black had to capture on f3 since Black had to capture on f3 since Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): '⌂' Qc8? was losing to the simple was losing to the simple. And now ... Nc6 would win. ( *19...Rxf3* Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) *20.gxf3+-* ) 20.Rd8++- ]

[ 19.Ne6!+- 2.95/24 Rxf3 ( *19...Qe8? 20.Nxc7 Qc6 21.Nxa8+-* ) 20.Qxb7 ( *20.Nxf8+?* is the wrong capture. *Rxb3* Discovered Attack *21.axb3 Bxd1-+; 20.gxf3 Qf6+-* )]

**19...Nc6** **20.Rxc7??** -4.68/19 White has completely lost control of the position. White has completely lost control of the position.

[ 20.Nxf7 Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): '⌂' Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): 'is just about the only chance' Bxf7 21.Qxb7 was the only way to keep fighting. was the only way to keep fighting. Qc5+ Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) 22.Kh1= ]

[ 20.Nxf7= 0.00/20 and White has nothing to worry. Bxf7 21.Qxb7 Qc5+ 22.Kh1 ]

**20...Qc5+-+** Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): '-+'. Black is clearly winning. **21.Kh1** **Qxg5** Now White can only resign and he did it after Now White can only resign and he did it after **22.Qxb7** **Rxc7** Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): '!' Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s): 'Decoy: c7' **23.Qxa8+**

[ 23.Qxc7 Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) Qa5 Decoy Double attack ]

[ △23.-- Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) Rxb7 Wins material ]

**23...Qd8** **24.Qxd8+** Stockfish 6 64 POPCNT (10s) **24...Nxd8** 0-1 (24) Pedersen,S (2439)-Nielsen,P (2651) Faaborg DEN 2007 [R.Scherbakov]. Quite a comeback for Black. Weighted Error Value: White=0.45/Black=0.19 (very precise)

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Naumkin,Igor** **2479**
■ **Delchev,Aleksander** **2601**
Reggio Emilia (4) 01.01.2005
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

After winning the pawn Black must play very carefully as he is behind in development and his king cannot castle and should stay in the center. He usually tries to simplify the position by swapping the knights but in this game Black preferred a risky and rather suspicious approach, trying to keep his extra pawn on the board. He has eventually defended but White's initiative was more than enough to compensate the sacrificed pawn and he could find more promising continuations. RR: 'R. Scherbakov: 'After winning the pawn Black must play very carefully as he is behind in development and his king cannot castle and should stay in the center. He usually tries to simplify the position by swapping the knights but in this game Black preferred a risky and rather suspicious approach, trying to keep his extra pawn on the board. He has eventually defended but White's initiative was more than enough to compensate the sacrificed pawn and he could find more promising continuations. '' After winning the pawn Black must play very carefully as he is behind in development and his king cannot castle and should stay in the center. He usually tries to simplify the position by swapping the knights but in this game Black preferred a risky and rather suspicious approach, trying to keep his extra pawn on the board. He has eventually defended but White's initiative was more than enough to compensate the sacrificed pawn and he could find more promising continuations.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!''Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'After winning the pawn Black must play very carefully as he is behind in development and his king cannot castle and should stay in the center. He usually tries to simplify the position by swapping the knights but in this game Black preferred a risky and rather suspicious approach, trying to keep his extra pawn on the board. He has eventually defended but White's initiative was more than enough to compensate the sacrificed pawn and he could find more promising continuations.'

**1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Qa5 9.Bxf6 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.h4** A typical way to get K-side rook into play. White has compensation. **13...Ke7 14.Rh3** RR: '*'. aiming for e5!

[ 14.Nb5 -0.35/18 14.Rh3 0.21 Rd8 15.Qh5 Nd7! Wards off Qc5+ 16.Bxe6! Ne5! 17.Rc7+ Bd7! 18.Bxd7 Rxd7 19.Rxd7+ Kxd7 20.Qd1+ Ke8 21.Qb3 Rd8∞ ⇄ RR: '⇄ ⇄ ⇄' ]

**14...Rd8** 0.86/21

[ 14...Nc6 is a common option. ]

[ 14...Nc6= 0.16/22 keeps the balance. ]

**15.Rd3** 0.09/22 White is more active.

[ 15.Re3± 0.86/21 Nd7 16.Nf5+ exf5 17.exf5+ Ne5 18.Qh5 ]

**15...Nd7=** This approach is rare and probably dubious. Black is taking a big risk, trying to get some winning chances. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This approach is rare and probably dubious. Black is taking a big risk, trying to get some winning chances.'. The position is equal.

[ 15...Nc6 RR: '↑ 45/(483)' RR: 'Ü 45/(483) ↑ 45/(483) Ü 45/(483)' 16.Nxc6+ bxc6 would be a transposition to one of the main lines, which is considered in some other games. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'would be a transposition to one of the main lines, which is considered in some other games.' ]

**16.Nb3** **Qb6** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In case of'

[In case of 16...Qe5?! 2.12/18 16...Qb6 0.03 17.Qd2↑ Black's defence was rather difficult as he couldn't continue his development. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black's defence was rather difficult as he couldn't continue his development.' ]

**17.f4!** A strong-looking novelty - White takes control of the e5-square. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In the game Lautier - Ivanchuk, Monte Carlo (blind rapid) 2000 White preferred' RR: 'N' 'N' 'N' A strong-looking novelty - White takes control of the e5-square. Wards off Ne5

[ 17.f4!? ]

**17...Nf8** The only reasonable move. Strongly threatening ...Rxd3. **18.Rxd8**

[ 18.Nd4!? ]

[ 18.Nd4!? ]

**18...Qxd8** **19.Qe1!?** Trying to stop Black's development.

[ 19.Qf3 -0.66/21 19.Qe1 -0.23 Bd7 looked acceptable for Black. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'looked acceptable for Black.' ]

**19...Ke8!?** Black just moved his last piece to the 8th rank but, strangely enough, it is not so easy to break his position. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black just moved his last piece to the 8th rank but, strangely enough, it is not so easy to break his position.'. Black wants to play ...Rc8.

[ 19...Bd7? 0.24/20 19...Qb6 -0.25 was obviously met by 20.Qb4+ ]

**20.Nc5** -0.46/21 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Other moves couldn't pose serious problems to Black, for example,'

[ Other moves couldn't pose serious problems to Black, for example, Other moves couldn't pose serious problems to Black, for example, 20.Qe3 -0.54/20 20.Be2 -0.08 Bd7 21.Nd4 -0.88/20 ( *21.Kf2∓ -0.52/19* ) 21...Qb6 -0.46/18 and so on. ( *21...a6∓ -0.88/20* )]

[ 20.Be2= 0.00/22 should be considered. ]

**20...Qb6** 0.00/22

[ 20...Nd7∓ -0.46/21 21.Bb5 a6 ]

**21.Na4?!** -1.16/21 Up to now White played well but this retreat does not seem to be the best. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Up to now White played well but this retreat does not seem to be the best.'

[ 21.a4!↑ seemed to be the right way to maintain the initiative although Black still has reasonable defensive resources. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'seemed to be the right way to maintain the initiative although Black still has reasonable defensive resources.' ]

[ 21.a4= 0.00/22 ]

**21...Qd4** -0.34/21 Black's queen is very strong here but this move had to be well thought out.

[Black should play 21...Qd6!∓ -1.16/21 22.Qe3 Bd7 ]

**22.Qe2!∓** Otherwise Black just continues by ..Bc8-d7. **22...f5!** Not missing the threat of Rc1-d1, trapping the queen. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Not missing the threat of Rc1-d1, trapping the queen.'. ... Xg6 is the strong threat. **23.Nc3**

[ 23.Nc5!? came to mind but Black could achieve good counter chances by Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'came to mind but Black could achieve good counter chances by' Ng6!? Threatens to win with ...b6. 24.g3 Kf8!? 0.00/25 *( 24...Ne7∓ -0.43/21* might be stronger. *25.Bd3 Kf8 )* 25.exf5= Qxc5 26.fxg6 hxg6 with good play. ]

**23...a6** Inhibits Nb5. **24.g3** RR: '을' '을' '을' **24...b5 25.Bd5** This attractive move does not bother Black much. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Perhaps another temporary sacrifice' This attractive move does not bother Black much. **25...exd5 26.Nxd5** -1.84/27

[Only move: 26.exf5+∓ -0.70/22 Kd7 *( 26...Kd8 27.Nxd5 Ra7 28.Rd1= )* 27.Nxd5 Qxd5 28.Rd1 Pin ]

**26...fxe4!-+**

[ 26...Ne6?! -0.11/20 26...fxe4 -1.37 could have brought nothing but trouble after Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'could have brought nothing but trouble after' 27.Rd1 with idea e4xf5. ]

**27.Nc7+ Ke7 28.Nxa8 Bh3+** Suddenly White's king is uncomfortable! Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Suddenly White's king is uncomfortable!' **29.Ke1 e3?** 0.00/24 Most probably both players were already playing under time pressure. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Most probably both players were already playing under time pressure.'

[ 29...Ne6! -0.12/25 29...Nd7 -0.96 was much stronger, not closing access to the g1-square for the queen. Yet, after Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was much stronger, not closing access to the g1-square for the queen. Yet, after' 30.Nc7∓ a draw still seemed to be the most likely result. ]

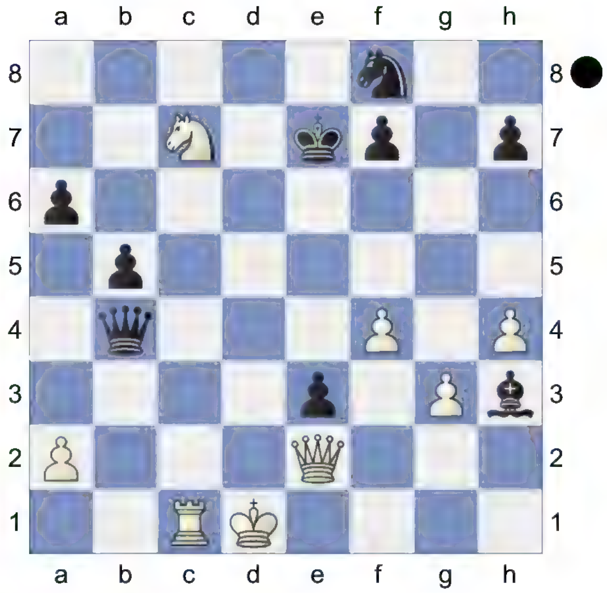
[ 29...Nd7!∓ -1.31/21 ...Nc5 would now be deadly. 30.Nc7 h5 ]

**30.Nc7?** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White should have got his queen into play first by'. Chess con chili.

[ White should have got his queen into play first by 30.Qc2! And now Qc3 would win. Ne6 1.44/19 *( 30...Nd7!= 0.00/24 31.Nc7 Bg4 )* 31.Nc7! , getting the position from the game. ]

**30...Ne6?** 2.59/18

[ Black could already have given perpetual check by Black could already have given perpetual check by 30...Qb4+ 31.Kd1

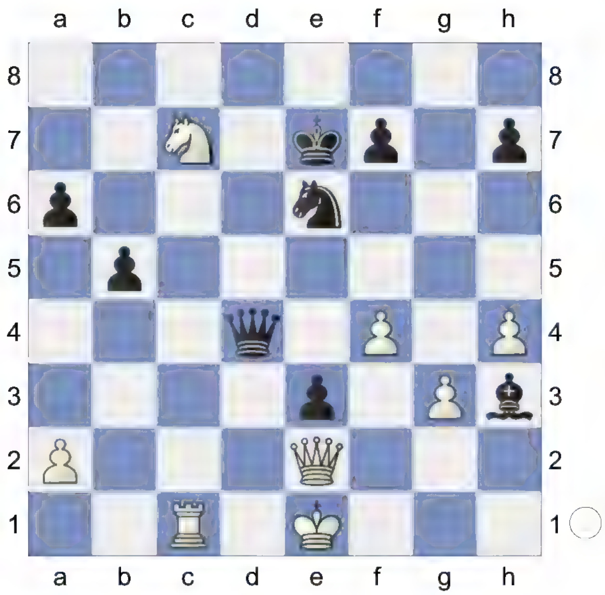


Qd4+!= ]

[ but he had an even stronger option but he had an even stronger option 30...Qe4! ( -> ...Qh1+) 31.Qc2! Qh1+ 32.Ke2 Qg2+ 33.Kxe3 *( 33.Ke1?? -#1/17* 33.Kxe3 0.00 *Qf1#; 33.Kd3?? Bf5+ )* 33...Qxg3+ 34.Ke2 Bg4+ 35.Kf1 Qxf4+ , playing for a win without much risk although the position should still be drawish. Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', playing for a win without much risk although the position should still be drawish.' ]

[ 30...Bf5∓ -0.33/27 stays ahead. 31.a3 *( 31.Nxa6? Ne6∓ )* 31...Nd7 32.Nxa6 Kf8 ]

(Diagram)



Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'but he had an even stronger option'. This move loses the game for Black. **31.Qc2!+-** Finally White gets his queen into action! Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', getting the position from the game.' , getting the position from the game. RR: 'Finally White gets his queen into action! R. Scherbakov: ', getting the position from the game.' Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', getting the position from the game.'' **31...Qb4+** 3.90/17 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The tempting'

[The tempting 31...Bf5 could be parried by 32.Nxe6!± ]

[ 31...e2 2.58/21 keeps fighting. 32.Qc3 ( *32.Nxa6 Bg4∓; 32.Qxe2 Qg1+ 33.Kd2 Qd4+ 34.Qd3 Qf2+ 35.Qe2 Qd4+ 36.Ke1 Qg1+ 37.Kd2 Qd4+=; 32.Kxe2 Nxf4+ 33.gxf4 Bg4+ 34.Kf1 Qxf4+ 35.Kg2 Qf3+ 36.Kh2 Qh3+ 37.Kg1 Qg3+ 38.Kf1 Qf3+ 39.Kg1 Qg3+ 40.Kf1 Qh3+ 41.Kg1 Qg3+=* ) 32...Bg4 33.Qxd4 ( *33.Nxa6 Qg1+ 34.Kd2 Qd1+ 35.Ke3 e1Q+* Deflection *36.Qxe1 Qd4#* ) 33...Nxd4 34.Nxa6 Be6 ]

**32.Qc3 Qe4** Prevents Nd5+. **33.Nxe6**

[ 33.Nxa6 leads to mate. Qh1+ 34.Ke2 Bg4+ 35.Kd3 Qd5+ ]

**33...Qh1+** Black wisely offered a draw which was accepted! However, White could already play for a win without any risk. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'perhaps' RR: 'Black wisely offered a draw which was accepted! However, White could already play for a win without any risk. ½-½ (33) Naumkin,I (2479)-Delchev,A (2601) Reggio Emilia 2005 [R.Scherbakov] Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'perhaps'' Black wisely offered a draw which was accepted! However, White could already play for a win without any risk. Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.53. An unexpected result.

[After 33...Qh1+ 5.02/5 33...Bxe6 3.29 34.Ke2 Threatening mate with Qc7+. Qg2+ 35.Kxe3 Intending Qc7+ and mate. Qxg3+ 36.Kd4 Qf2+ 37.Qe3 Black had to exchange queens: Qxe3+ ( *37...Qb2+?* 8.12/21 *37...Qxe3+ 3.49 38.Kc5! fxe6 39.Kb6→* ) 38.Kxe3 Bxe6+- , getting the endgame, which seems winning for White Scherbakov, Ruslan: ', getting the endgame, which seems winning for White' ]

[perhaps 33...Bxe6!? was objectively stronger but here White could hardly accept a draw offer since he had an easy way: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was objectively stronger but here White could hardly accept a draw offer since he had an easy way:' 34.Qc5+ Ke8 35.Qc6+ Qxc6 36.Rxc6 Bxa2 37.Rxa6 Bc4 38.g4± with good winning chances. ]

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Bagaturov,Giorgi** **2532**
■ **Palac,Mladen** **2610**
EU-chT (Men) (4.2) 02.12.1999
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

An interesting pawn push forced Black's king to go for a walk but his queen worked at full power - just in time it eliminated a strong passed pawn on the h-file and prevented all White's attempts to get attacking chances. RR: 'Inf 77/(417)'

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!''Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'An interesting pawn push forced Black's king to go for a walk but his queen worked at full power - just in time it eliminated a strong passed pawn on the h-file and prevented all White's attempts to get attacking chances.' **1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

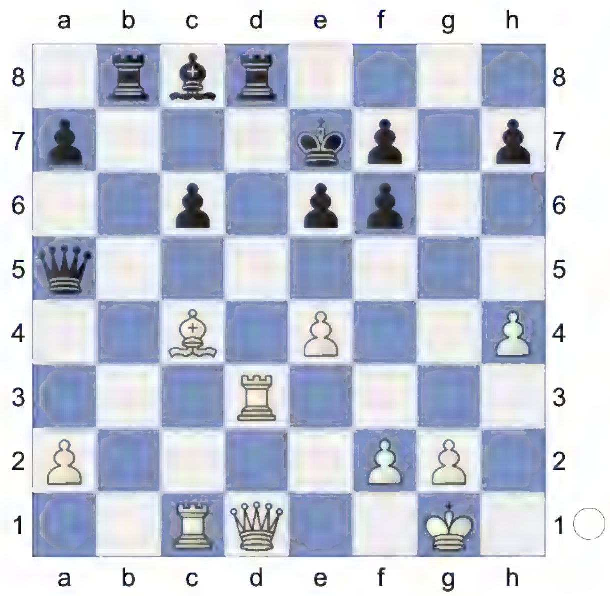
A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5** RR: '*' **10.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.h4 Ke7 14.Rh3 Nc6 15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Rd3 Rb8** 0.39/20

[ 16...Rd8= 0.03/24 ]

**17.Kg1± Rd8**



**18.e5!** This pawn push is rather typical for such a pawn structure. Since Black cannot capture this pawn with his queen his king becomes more vulnerable - however, White still cannot gain any real benefit. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This pawn push is rather typical for such a pawn structure. Since Black cannot capture this pawn with his queen his king becomes more vulnerable - however, White still cannot gain any real benefit.' **18...fxe5** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Obviously not'. White is slightly better.

[Obviously not 18...Rxd3? 1.03/22 18...fxe5 0.43 19.exf6+ Kxf6 20.Qxd3↑ with a strong initiative. ]

**19.Qh5**

[ 19.Rxd8 simplifies Qxd8 20.Qe1 Rb2 21.Qxe5 Rd2 22.Qc5+ ]

**19...Rxd3 20.Qg5+** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In case of'

[In case of 20.Bxd3 Black achieves good counterplay by the simple Qd2 21.Rd1 Qf4 22.g3 Qf6 23.Qxh7 Rb2 Dodges Be2 *( 23...c5!? )* 24.Bc2! And now Qd3 would win. Qf3⇄ and so on. ]

[ 20.Bxd3 simplifies Qd2 21.Rd1 Qf4 22.g3 ]

**20...f6!** Black has to force matters. RR: 'N!' Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'N!' 'N!' Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black has to force matters.'. The position is equal.

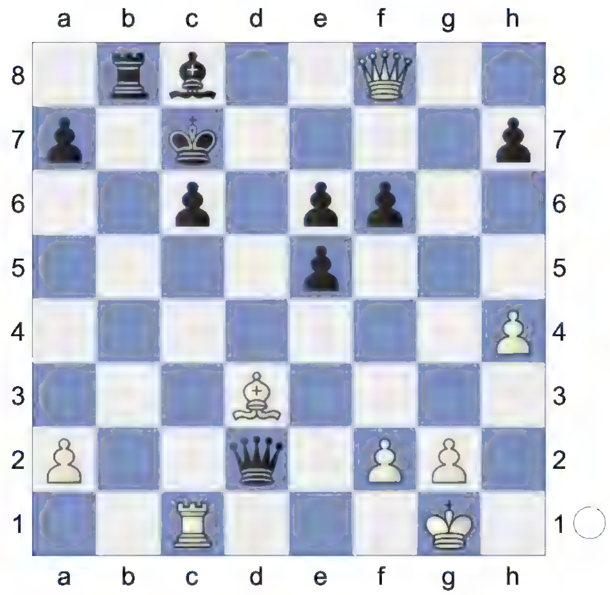
[ 20...Kf8? 1.31/20 20...f6 0.21 is much weaker: RR: '— 71/(437)' Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Ü 71/(437) is much weaker:' 21.Bxd3↑ Bd7?! 2.03/21 *( 21...Ba6± 1.47/20 is a better defense. 22.Bxh7 Rb4 )* 22.Bxh7+- Black must now prevent Qg8+. Rb4?! 4.44/18 *( ⌓22...Qd8 1.76/20 )* 23.h5+- h6 would now be deadly. Qd5 24.h6+- and White won in the game Browne - Van Buskirk, Los Angeles 1997. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and White won in the game Browne - Van Buskirk, Los Angeles 1997.' ]

**21.Qg7+ Kd6!**

[ 21...Ke8? 5.85/19 21...Kd6 0.28 just gives White the h7-pawn for free: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'just gives White the h7-pawn for free:' 22.Qh8+ Ke7 23.Qxh7++- and so on. ]

**22.Bxd3** Of course, Black cannot be happy with his advanced king but the next move causes some problems for White and so distracts him from the main target. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Of course, Black cannot be happy with his advanced king but the next move causes some problems for White and so distracts him from the main target.'

**22...Qd2! 23.Qf8+ Kc7**



**24.Qc5** Some like it hot **24...Bd7**

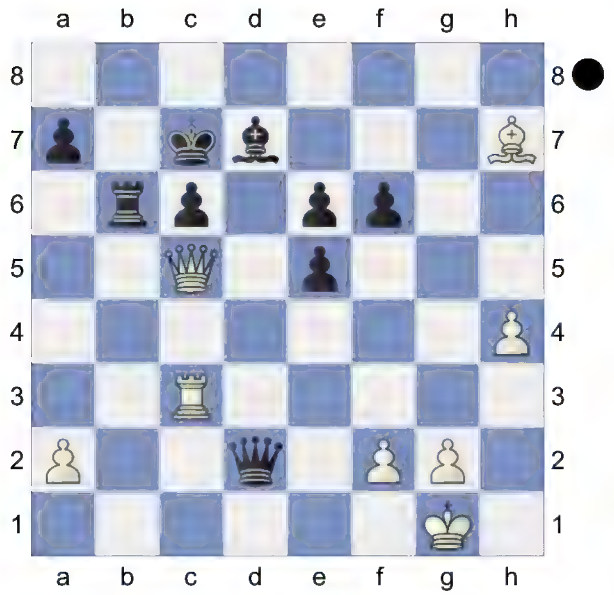
[ 24...Rb6!? was worthy of consideration. ]

[ 24...Qxd3? too greedy. 25.Qxc6+ Kd8 26.Qc7+ Ke8 27.Qxb8+- ]

**25.Bxh7** Curiously enough, only this move is a novelty. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In the game Bukal - Dizdar, Pula 2001 White played weaker:'

[ In the game Bukal - Dizdar, Pula 2001 White played weaker: 25.Rc3?! -0.65/22 25.Bxh7 0.07 Rb6! 26.a4 -1.57/21 and Black has the better chances after Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and Black has the better chances after' *( 26.Bxh7? -2.59/21* 26.Qa3 -0. 55

(Diagram)



*Qd1+! 27.Kh2* Threatens to win with Rd3. *Qh5; 26.Qa3=* -0.30/23 remains equal.*)* 26...e4!∓ 27.a5 -2.63/22 *(⌓27.Bc2* -1.77/18*)* 27...exd3? 0.00/27 ( Black should play *27...Rb2-+* -2.63/22 *28.Bc2 a6* Decoy *)* 28.axb6+= axb6 29.Qa3 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qxf2∓ ]

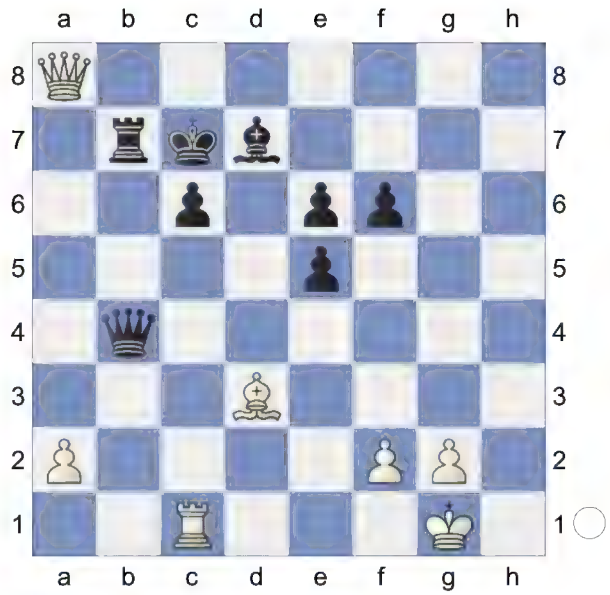
**25...Qb4!⇄** Black must eliminate White's h-pawn. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black must eliminate White's h-pawn.'. Black is fighting back **26.Qxa7+ Rb7 27.Qa6**

[ 27.a3 simplifies Rxa7 28.axb4 Be8 29.g4 ]

**27...Qxh4 28.Qa5+ Kc8! 29.Bd3** aiming for Ba6. **29...Qb4!** The queen goes back to defence. Black looks fine - he is defending with all his pieces, whilst having an extra pawn in his pocket. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The queen goes back to defence. Black looks fine - he is defending with all his pieces, whilst having an extra pawn in his pocket.' **30.Qa8+ Rb8!** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Certainly not'

[Certainly not 30...Kc7? 3.78/22 30...Rb8 0.00

(Diagram)



31.Ba6!→ with a strong attack. ]

**31.Qa6+ Qb7** Strongly threatening ... Qxa6.

[ 31...Kc7!? also seemed playable. ]

**32.Qa3 Qb4 33.Qa6+** White has nothing more than q repetition of moves. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White has nothing more than q repetition of moves.' **33...Qb7 34.Qa3** Draw agreed. Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

□ **Malakhatko, MH,Vadim** **2543**
■ **Schenk,Andreas** **2499**
Deizisau (5) 10.04.2004
*[R.Scherbakov]*

Since 12...a6 13. Be2 Nc6 does not fully equalise Black has been looking for a more convincing approach and so the line 12...0-0 13.0-0 Bxb5 14. Nxb5 Nc6 has recently gained some popularity. At first sight it looks quite risky for Black, whose king's shield is seriously damaged, but he is going to do everything possible to prevent the appearance of his rival's army around his monarch. On the other hand, White is dreaming of shifting his pieces to the K-side and he has to choose whether to bring the rook or the queen first. However, the immediate 15. Rad1 or 15. Rae1 does not promise much - Black can quickly bring his rook to the d-file and his active major pieces can successfully prevent White's attempts to increase the concentration of his forces against Black's king. RR: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Since 12...a6 13. Be2 Nc6 does not fully equalise Black has been looking for a more convincing approach and so the line 12...0-0 13.0-0 Bxb5 14. Nxb5 Nc6 has recently gained some popularity. At first sight it looks quite risky for Black, whose king's shield is seriously damaged, but he is going to do everything possible to prevent the appearance of his rival's army around his monarch. On the other hand, White is dreaming of shifting his pieces to the K-side and he has to choose whether to bring the rook or the queen first. However, the immediate 15. Rad1 or 15. Rae1 does not promise much - Black can quickly bring his rook to the d-file and his active major pieces can successfully prevent White's attempts to increase the concentration of his forces against Black's king.' Inf 91/(381)'

### D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Since 12...a6 13. Be2 Nc6 does not fully equalise Black has been looking for a more convincing approach and so the line 12... 0-0 13. 0-0 Bxb5 14. Nxb5 Nc6 has recently gained some popularity. At first sight it looks quite risky for Black, whose king's shield is seriously damaged, but he is going to do everything possible to prevent the appearance of his rival's army around his monarch. On the other hand, White is dreaming of shifting his pieces to the K-side and he has to choose whether to bring the rook or the queen first. However, the immediate 15. Rad1 or 15. Rae1 does not promise much - Black can quickly bring his rook to the d-file and his active major pieces can successfully prevent White's attempts to increase the concentration of his forces against Black's king.'' **1.d4** RR RR RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan R. Scherbakov' **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H

(2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qb3 Bxb5!?** RR: 'R.Scherbakov: '!?' Scherbakov, Ruslan: '!?' Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black can also begin with''

[Black can also begin with 12...0-0 RR: 'R.Scherbakov' 13.0-0

**A)** 13...Qb6 does not equalise , as was shown in the game Bocharov - Landa, RUS-ch Krasnoyarsk, 2003: RR: 'does not equalise , as was shown in the game Bocharov - Landa, RUS-ch Krasnoyarsk, 2003: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'does not equalise , as was shown in the game Bocharov - Landa, RUS-ch Krasnoyarsk, 2003:'' 14.Rfd1! And now c4 would win. Nc6 15.Bxc6! Bxc6 ( *15...Qxb3* 0.78/25 15...Bxc6 0.21 *16.axb3 Bxc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Kf1±* ) 16.Qc2 Rac8 17.Qe2 Qc5 18.Rab1 ( *18.Rd3!?* ) 18...Kh8 19.Rd3 Rg8 20.g3 Rgd8 21.Qf3 Kg7 22.Rbd1⩲ and Black's defence was not so easy RR: 'and Black's defence was not so easy Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and Black's defence was not so easy'';

**B)** 13...Bxb5 14.Nxb5 Nc6 and so on. ]

**13.Nxb5** Black must now prevent Nd6+. **13...0-0 14.0-0 Nc6** RR: '*' RR: '* Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and so on.''

[ 14...Nd7?! 0.75/20 14...Nc6 0.15 is dubious. White gets a big advantage by the simple RR: '(R.Scherbakov) is dubious. White gets a big advantage by the simple' 15.c4! a6 16.Nd6± followed by Ra1-d1. ]

**15.Rae1**

[ 15.Rad1 has also been tried: RR: '(R. Scherbakov) has also been tried:' Rad8 16.Nd6 Qe5 17.Qa3 b6 ( *17...Rd7!?* deserved attention as well ) 18.Rd3 ( *18.f4* could have been met by *Qa5 19.Qxa5 Nxa5 20.Rf3 Nb7!* with a drawish endgame: RR: 'with a drawish endgame: Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'with a drawish endgame:'' *21.Rg3+ Kh8 22.Rgd3 Nxd6 23.Rxd6 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Rc8 25.Rd7 Kg7=* and so on ) 18...Qf4 19.Rfd1 Ne5 20.Rg3+ Kh8 21.h3 This position arose in the game Azmaiparashvili - Agrest, EU-ch Istanbul 2003, which continued RR: 'This position arose in the game Azmaiparashvili - Agrest, EU-ch Istanbul 2003, which continued Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This position arose in the game Azmaiparashvili - Agrest, EU-ch Istanbul 2003, which continued''

**A)** 21...Rd7!? was also worthy of consideration: 22.Rd4 Rg8 23.Rxg8+ Kxg8 24.Ne8!? Nd3!? 25.Rxd7 Qxf2+ 26.Kh1 ( *26.Kh2??* was even losing: *Ne1 27.Nxf6+ Kg7 28.Rxf7+ Kxf7 29.Qxa7+ Kxf6-+* ) 26...Qf1+ RR: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'but not'' (but not *26...Ne1? 27.Nxf6+ Kg7 28.Nh5+ Kg6 29.Nf4+! Qxf4 30.Qb2* ) 27.Kh2 Qf4+= with perpetual check RR: 'with perpetual check Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'with perpetual check'';

**B)** 21...h5!?

**B1)** 22.Qxa7 was risky for White: RR: 'was risky for White: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was risky for White:'' h4 23.Re3 Rg8 24.Qc7 ( *24.Qxb6 Nc4!* )

24...Kh7!→ with good attacking possibilities on the K-side RR: 'with good attacking possibilities on the K-side Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'with good attacking possibilities on the K-side";

**B2)** 22.Nxf7+!? Forcing a draw. 22...Nxf7 23.Rxd8 Rxd8 24.Qe7 h4 RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or" (or *24...Rd1+ 25.Kh2 Ng5 26.Qe8+ Kg7 27.Qe7+*) 25.Rd3 Rxd3 RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black could also give perpetual by" (*25...Rxd3!? 26.Qf8+□ Kh7 27.Qxf7+ Kh6 28.Qf8+ Kh7 29.Qe7+ Kg8 30.Qe8+ Kg7 31.Qe7+ Kg6 32.Qe8+ Kg5 33.Qg8+ Kh5 34.g4+ hxg3 35.Qf7+ Kh6 36.Qf8+ Kh7 37.Qf7+ Kh6 38.Qf8+ Kh7 39.Qf7+ Kh6=*) 26.Qf8+ Kh7 27.Qxf7+ and here a draw was agreed. ]

**15...Rfd8 16.Re3** White transfers his rook to the K-side but it would be very difficult to provide real support for it. RR: 'R.Scherbakov: 'White transfers his rook to the K-side but it would be very difficult to provide real support for it.' Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White transfers his rook to the K-side but it would be very difficult to provide real support for it." **16...Rd2** Black plays actively, forcing matters. RR: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Black plays actively, forcing matters." **17.Nd4!?** RR: 'R.Scherbakov: '!?' Scherbakov,Ruslan: '!?" **17...Nxd4 18.cxd4 Rxd4 19.Qxb7±** Thanks to the weakened black king White's chances are preferable but Black's position should be defendable. RR: 'R. Scherbakov: ' ±' R.Scherbakov: 'Thanks to the weakened black king White's chances are preferable but Black's position should be defendable.' Scherbakov,Ruslan: ' ±' Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Thanks to the weakened black king White's chances are preferable but Black's position should be defendable." **19...Re8!** RR: 'N!' 'N!' RR: 'Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Of course, not"

[ Of course, not RR: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Of course, not" 19...Rad8? 0.88/19 19...Re8 0.26 RR: 'R.Scherbakov: '?' Scherbakov,Ruslan: '?" 20.Qe7± , Malakhatko - Midoux, Marseille 2004. RR: '+-' '+-' RR: 'R.Scherbakov: '±' R.Scherbakov: ', Malakhatko - Midoux, Marseille 2004.' Scherbakov, Ruslan: ' ±' Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', Malakhatko - Midoux, Marseille 2004. " ]

**20.Qb2**

[ 20.Rg3+ RR: 'R.Scherbakov' Kf8 21.Rh3 could be met by Qb6!? 22.Qxb6 axb6 23.Rxh7 Rxe4 RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or" ( or *23...Kg8!? 24.Rh3 Rxe4* ) 24.Rh8+ Ke7 25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 26.Rb1 Kf8 27.g3 Ra4 28.Rb2 Kg7= with a drawish endgame. ]

**20...Red8** aiming for ...Xf3. **21.h3 Qe5 22.Qa3 R4d7** The position is equal. **23.f4** RR: 'Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Or"

[Or 23.Rg3+ RR: 'R.Scherbakov' Kh8 24.Qf3 Rg8 25.Rxg8+ Kxg8 26.Rc1 Rd4 27.Qg4+ Qg5 and Black is OK. ]

**23...Qd6 24.Rg3+ Kf8 25.Qf3 Qd3 26.Qf2 Qd4** Black prefers a safe approach. RR: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Black prefers a safe approach.' Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'He could have thought about"

[ He could have thought about 26...Qxe4!? but White had good compensation after RR: '(R. Scherbakov) but White had good compensation after' 27.Qc5+ Re7! 28.Qh5≌ ]

**27.Re3 Qd2 28.Re2 Qd4 29.Re3** Draw agreed. RR: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Draw agreed.". A rather calm draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Khmelniker,Ilya** **2404**

■ **Khenkin,Igor** **2620**

ECU Club Cup (3) 10.10.2006

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Igor Khenkin came up with a good novelty in a sharp line - it helped Black to solve all his problems and even to get some hopes of an advantage.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 ( *14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6) 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Qa4+** This sharp variation was known to be good for Black but recently White has found some ideas... **8...Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7 10.Ne4 Be7 11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4** White has won a piece but the powerful pawn center gives Black good compensation.

**12...Rc8** 0.44/21 The main continuation.

[ 12...Nb4? 1.39/20 12...a6 -0.10 can be strongly met by 13.Qxb4! Bxb4 14.Nxf6+ Kf8 15.Rxd4

**A)** 15...Be7 16.Ne5? 0.47/20 ( *16.Nxd7++-* 2.04/19 *Ke8 17.Nf6+* Discovered Attack *Bxf6 18.Rxd8+ Bxd8 19.Bg3* ) 16...Ba4 1.41/18 (Better is *16...h5!±* 0.47/20 ) 17.Rxd8+± Rxd8 18.Be2!± Kengis - Darban, Abu Dhabi 2006. Wards off Rd1+;

**B)** 15...Qa5 16.Nxd7+ Ke8 17.Nf6+ Kf8

**B1)** or 18.Bxc4 Rc8 19.Kb1 h5 3.84/20 ( *⌓19...Be7* 2.58/18 ) 20.Rhd1 Be7 21.Nd7+ Ke8 22.Bg3± Fine - Gruenfeld, Amsterdam 1936;

**B2)** 18.Ne5 h5 19.Bxc4 and Black's extra queen cannot fight against White's superior forces: Kg7 2.91/22

*( ⌓19...Rh6* 1.98/19 *)* 20.Nfd7+- Rhc8? 4.77/19 *( 20...Rh6* 2.51/19 is a better defense. *21.Kb1 f6 )* 21.Kb1+- b5 8.22/18 *( ⌓21...Rxc4* 4.57/19 *22.Bf6+ Kh6 23.Rxc4 Qb5 )* 22.Bf6++- Kg8 23.Rh4 White threatens Rxh5! and mate. Be7 24.Bxe7 Rxc4 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Rxh5 and Black resigned, Avrukh - Guliyev, Turin (ol) 2006. ]

[ 12...a6!? ]

[ 12...b5?! 13.Qxb5 e5 1.43/19 and here White could have secured a big advantage by *( 13...Rb8!=* 0.00/19 *14.Qxc4 e5 )*

**A)** 14.Qxc4 0.00/21 14.Qd5 0.98 Rc8 0.89/18 *( 14...0-0=* 0.00/21 keeps the balance.*)* 15.Kb1!± 0-0⇄ gave Black good counter chances in the game W.Schmidt - Jonkman, Dresden 1993;

**B)** 14.Qd5!± Nb4 15.Nxf6+! Bxf6 16.Bxf6! Nxd5 17.Bxd8 Rxd8 18.Nxe5± and White will soon get a healthy extra pawn in the endgame ]

[ 12...a6!? ]

[ 12...a6!? ]

[ 12...a6!= -0.22/21 ]

**13.Kb1!⩲**

[ 13.Bxc4? Na5 14.Qc2 Rxc4 15.Nxd4 Rxc2+-+ *( 15...Ba4? 16.b3-+ )*]

[ 13.Qxc4? Nb4 14.Rxd4 b5-+ *( 14...Rxc4+? 15.Bxc4 e5 16.Re1-+; 14...Nxa2+ 15.Kb1∓ )*]

**13...Na5** Here Black also has some other options.

[After 13...b5? 0.84/19 13...Na5 0.23 14.Qxb5 Black fails to prove compensation for material losses:

**A)** or 14...c3 2.68/18 14...e5 1.42 15.Nxd4 Qc7 *( 15...Nxd4 16.Rxd4 c2+ 17.Kc1+-; 15...a6 16.Qb3! Na5 17.Qc2 cxb2 18.Qxb2+-* Lemaire - Olsen, corr. 1955*)* 16.Qc4+- Haantola - Bostrom, FIN-ch corr. 1980;

**B)** 14...Ne5 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxe5 Bxe5 17.Bxd8+-;

**C)** 14...e5 15.Bxc4 Rb8? 3.15/19 *( 15...0-0±* 0.91/17 was necessary.*)* 16.Qd5+- 0-0 White must now prevent ...Nb4. 17.Bxf6 Qb6 4.32/23 *( ⌓17...Bf5* 3.01/19 *)* 18.b3+- Be6 (Gual Pascual - Vehi Bach, Barcelona 1988) 19.Bxe7! Bxd5 20.Nf6+ Kg7 21.Nxd5+- ]

[ 13...e5 is not so easy to refute: 14.Bxc4 a6 15.Qb3 Na5

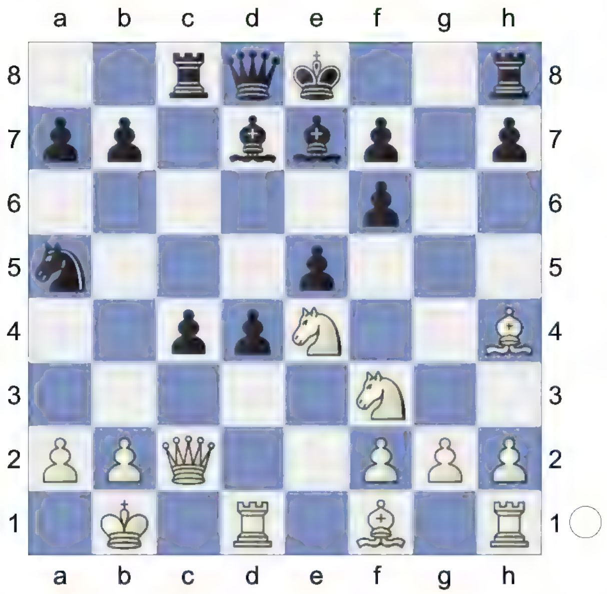
**A)** 16.Nxf6+!? Bxf6 17.Bxf7+ Kf8 18.Qa3+ Be7 19.Bxe7+ Qxe7 20.Nxe5 *( 20.Qxa5 Bf5+ 21.Ka1 Rc5= )* 20...Bf5+ 21.Ka1 Qxa3 22.bxa3⩲;

**B)** 16.Nxf6+!? Bxf6 17.Bxf7+ Kf8 18.Qa3+ Be7! ...Nc4! is the strong threat. 19.Bxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qxa5 Rc5 21.Qd2 Bf5+ 22.Ka1 Kxf7 23.Rhe1⩲ and White's chances look preferable thanks to Black's vulnerable king ]

[ 13...a6 is a rare option: 14.Qxc4 e5 15.Nxe5! 0.03/23 *( 15.Bxf6!⩲* 0.41/23 *Bf5 16.Bxh8 Bxe4+ 17.Bd3 )* 15...Nxe5= 16.Qxd4 0-0 17.Bd3!? *(*after *17.Be2 Bf5* Black has achieved acceptable play in Van Wely - Morozevich, Monte Carlo 2002*; 17.Qe3!? )* 17...Rc6 0.36/21 *( 17...Be6=* -0.13/22 was preferrable. *18.Qe3 Nxd3 19.Rxd3 Qa5 )* 18.f3 -0.20/24 *( 18.Nc3⩲* 0.36/21 *)* 18...Qa5 0.23/21 *( ⌓18...Nxd3* -0.20/24

*19.Rxd3 Bf5 )* 19.Be1 Qc7 20.Bc3± and White has secured an edge in the game Chiburdanidze - Kosteniuk, Krasnoturjinsk 2005. ]

**14.Qc2 e5**



**15.Nxd4!** Otherwise White cannot get his pieces into play. **15...exd4 16.Rxd4 Qb6** A very important position is reached. White has tried a number of possibilities but none of them promised him anything substantial. **17.Rd5** A recent idea, which caused some headaches for Black lately.

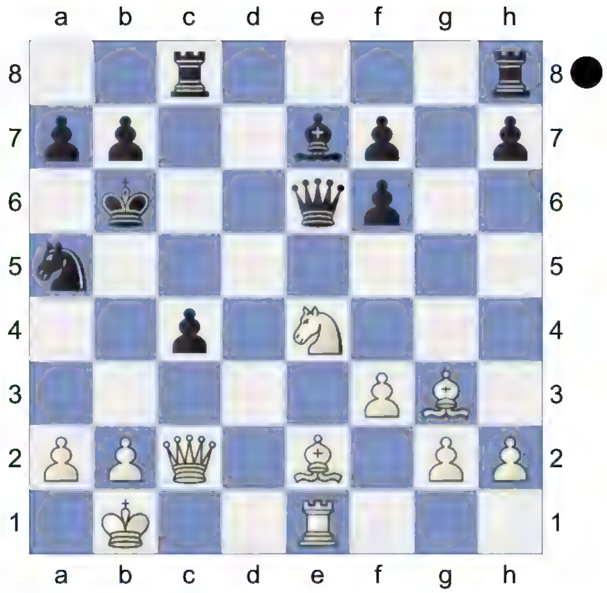
[ 17.Rxd7 -0.54/19 17.Rd6 0.21 Kxd7 18.Be2 is known to be fine for Black:

A) 18...Ke8! 19.Qc3 -0.63/18 ( *19.Bg4!= -0.03/21 Rd8 20.Qc3* ) 19...Rc6 seems playable as well, Goldin - Gelfand, Vilnius 1988;

B) Black should play 18...Ke8!∓ -0.66/22;

C) 18...Qe6!? 0.03/19 Inhibits Bg4. 19.Re1 -0.62/19 ( *19.Bxf6!= 0.03/19 Rhg8 20.Qd2+ Ke8 21.Qe3* ) 19...Kc7∓ 20.Bg3+ Kb6 21.f3 -1.40/20 ( *21.f4∓ -0.67/19* )

(Diagram)



21...Ka6!∓ and White eventually failed to prove compensation for the exchange, Pert - Wells, Southend 2002 ]

[ 17.Rd6 used to be the most popular option: Rc6 (surely not *17...Bxd6?* 3.90/17 17...Rc6 0.10 *18.Nxf6++-* )

A) 18.Bxf6 -1.03/23 18.Rxc6 0.20 is worse: Rxd6

A1) 19.Nxd6+? -3.95/18 19.Bxh8 -0.96 is losing to: Qxd6 20.Bxh8? -6.61/22 ( *20.Bxe7 -3.77/17 Kxe7 21.Bxc4 Nxc4 22.Qxc4* ) 20...Bf5!-+ ( -> ...Qd1#) 21.Qxf5 Qd1#;

A2) 19.Bxh8 Bf5! 20.Be2 -1.89/20 Prevents Rd1+. ( *20.Bxc4∓ -0.84/19 Nxc4 21.Qxc4* ) 20...Re6!-+ 21.Bf3 -2.19/19 and here ( *21.f3∓ -1.00/20* )

A2a) 21...Kf8 -1.16/18 21...f6 -1.85 22.g4 -1.80/20 ( *22.h4∓ -1.16/18 c3 23.Bxc3* ) 22...Bg6-+ ...Nc6 would now be deadly. 23.Bg2 was very unclear, Atalik - Xu Jun, Moscow

2001;

**A2b)** while 21...Nc6?! 22.Nd6+ Rxd6 23.Qxf5± gave White a clear advantage in Kalinitschew - Janjgava, Novosibirsk 1989;

**A2c)** 21...f6-+ -2.19/19 is more deadly. 22.g4 Bg6;

**A2d)** 21...Bg6! -1.07/21 22.Bc3 Nc6 23.Re1 Nb4 24.Qa4+ Kf8! Strongly threatening ...Nd3. 25.Re2 -1.81/19 ( *25.Ka1∓* -1.28/21 ) 25...f5? 0.00/26 ( *25...Nd5-+* -1.81/19 *26.Qxc4 Nxc3+ 27.Qxc3 Bf6* ) 26.Nc5!= Bxc5 27.Rxe6 f4+! with sufficient counterplay, R. Bagirov - Kosyrev, Moscow 2002;

**B)** 18.Rxc6 Qxc6 19.Be2 f5! ( *19...0-0 20.g4!⩲* Kacheishvili - Gyimesi, Zagan 1997. Inhibits Bf5.) 20.Bxe7 Qxe4 21.Bf6 ( *21.Bb4* 0.05/24 21.Bf6 0.51 *Nc6 22.Bc3 Rg8* was okay for Black, M. Gurevich - Jussupow, Leningrad 1987 ) 21...Rg8 22.Re1 With the idea g4! (after *22.Bf3 Qxc2+ 23.Kxc2* a draw was agreed in the game Komarov - Smagin, Norilsk 1987 ) 22...Qxc2+ 23.Kxc2 Be6 24.Rd1 Nc6! Inhibits Rd8+. 25.Bf3 Threatening mate with Bxc6+. Bd7 1.29/23 ( *25...Nb4+⩲* 0.37/25 *26.Kb1 Nd3* ) 26.Kc3 0.63/20 ( *26.g4±* 1.29/23 *h6 27.Kc3* ) 26...Rg6⩲ 27.Rd6⩲ and White has achieved somewhat the better chances in the endgame, although it is likely to be drawish, Koneru - Galyas, Budapest 2005. ]

[ Another well-known option is 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Qe4+ Kf8! 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Rxd7 Re8 does not promise much for White:

**A)** or 21.Qc2 Qg6 ( *21...Re1+!? 22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 Kg7 24.Qg4+ Qg6+ 25.Qxg6+ hxg6=* ) 22.Qxg6 Re1+ 23.Kc2 hxg6= and Black almost equalised, Vladimirov - Arkhipov, Dubai 2001;

**B)** 21.Qd4 Re1+ 22.Kc2 Qxd4 23.Rxd4 Ke7⩲ 0.24/24 with a slightly worse but quite playable endgame, in which Black did not face serious problems in practice. ( *⌓23...b5* -0.17/23 *24.Rd7 Nc6* )]

**17...Be6↑** Black has the initiative.

**18.Qa4+**

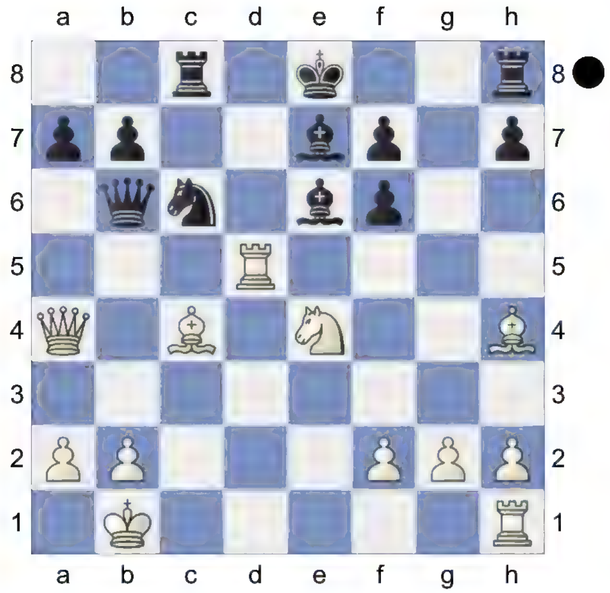
[White has also tried 18.Rh5!? And now Qc3! would win. Bg4 19.Qa4+! Nc6 20.Rb5 and here Black has to play Qa6! ( after *20...Qd4?!* 0.60/20 20...Qa6 0.00 *21.f3!* aiming for Bf2! *Be6 22.Bf2 Qd7 23.Bxc4* Hoping for Rd1. *Bxc4 24.Qxc4* Threatens to win with Re1. *0-0 25.Bh4±* White has obtained a big advantage, Riazantsev - Jakovenko, Moscow 2006) 21.Qxa6 bxa6 22.Rb7 Bf5 23.f3! Rg8! , transposing to the actual game. ]

**18...Nc6 19.Rb5**

[ 19.Bxc4 -0.73/20 19.Rb5 -0.34

(Diagram)

was well met by Qb4! 20.Qxb4 Nxb4 21.Bb5+ Kf8 22.Rd2 Bxa2+ 23.Ka1 Be6 -0.06/21 Against Rd7 ( *23...a6∓* -0.87/23 *24.Bd7 Rc4* ) 24.Nxf6= Kg7 25.Nh5+ Kf8 26.Nf6 Kg7 27.Nh5+ and here a draw was agreed in the game Khalifman - Ribli, Groningen 1993. ]



**19...Qa6 20.Qxa6 bxa6 21.Rb7 Bf5 22.f3 Rg8!** A good novelty.

[ In the game Babula - Ribli, Eppingen 2006 Black faced some problems after 22...0-0? 1.54/21 22...Rg8 0.01 23.Bxc4 Na5 24.Rxe7 Nxc4 25.Bxf6⩲ ]

**23.Bg3**

[ 23.Bxc4 Na5 ( *23...Rxg2 24.Bxa6 Rb8 25.Rxb8+ Nxb8 26.Bb5+ Kf8 27.Rd1⩲* ) 24.Rxe7+ ( *24.Rxa7? Nxc4 25.g3 Bc5-+* ) 24...Kxe7 25.Bxa6 ( *25.Bxf6+ Kf8⩱* ) 25...Rc6-+ ]

**23...Rg5!?** A rather unusual way to quickly get the rook into play. **24.a4**

[ 24.Bxc4 Na5 25.Rxe7+ Kxe7 26.Bxa6 Bxe4+ 27.fxe4 Rc6⩱ ]

**24...Nd4 25.Rb8 Bxe4+ 26.fxe4 Rgc5** Black has solved the problems and might think about fighting for some advantage but actually the position is roughly equal. **27.Rxc8+ Rxc8 28.Bf2 Nb3 29.Bxa7 Bd6!?**

[Refusing to win a pawn by 29...Nd2+ 30.Kc2 Nxe4 31.g3 - then Black did not have a clear target while all White's pieces were coming into play. ]

**30.Be2 Be5 31.Rd1 Ra8!** Pushing the bishop and getting the important b8-square. **32.Be3 Rb8 33.Ka2**

[ 33.Bxc4 Na5 34.Bd5 Rxb2+ 35.Kc1 Nb3+ 36.Bxb3 Rxb3⩲ ]

**33...Nc5** Double Attack **34.Rb1**

[ 34.Bxc5? loses. Rxb2+ ( *34...Bxh2? 35.Bxc4 Be5 36.b4+-* ) 35.Ka3 Rxe2-+ ]

**34...Nxa4**

[ 34...Nd3!? deserved attention but it couldn't promise real winning chances: 35.Bxd3 cxd3 36.b4 Rc8 37.Rd1 Rc2+ 38.Kb3 with a probable draw. ]

**35.Bxc4 Nxb2** Trying to make things complicated.

[ 35...Rxb2+ 36.Rxb2 Nxb2 37.Bxa6 Nd1 led to an obvious draw. ]

**36.Be2** A strong pair of Bishops. **36...Rb4 37.Bc1?!** Perhaps missing the following defence.

[ 37.Bd2 Rb6 38.h3 could have avoided possible problems. ( *38.Bc1!? Na4□ 39.Rxb6 Nxb6 40.Bxa6=* )]

**37...Ra4+!** A very important intermediate check.

[ 37...Rxe4? 0.88/26 37...Ra4+ 0.01 failed to 38.Bf3 followed by Bxb2. ]

[ 37...Rxe4 38.Bf3 Na4 ( *38...Ra4+? 39.Kb3+-* ) 39.Bxe4± ]

**38.Kb3 Rxe4 39.Bf3** This leads to problems.

[ It was a good idea to capture the pawn by 39.Bxa6= ]

**39...Re1 40.Bc6+ Kd8 41.h3 Nd3 42.Kc2 Nxc1** In the endgame with opposite coloured bishops Black has too many weak pawns to really hope for a win.

[ 42...Kc7!? was more promising, keeping the knight on the board: 43.Bd5 Nc5 44.Bd2 Re2 and so on. ]

**43.Rxc1=** Endgame. KRB-KRB **43...Re3 44.Rd1+ Kc7 45.Bd5 Rc3+ 46.Kb1 Rg3?!**

[ 46...Kb6 47.Bxf7 a5 was preferable. ]

**47.Bf3** The position is equal. **47...Rg5 48.Ka2 Bd6 49.Rd5 Re5** Black agrees to swap rooks only if it improves his pawn structure. **50.Kb3 Kd7 51.Kc4 Ke6 52.Bg4+ Ke7 53.Bf3 Ke6 54.Bg4+ Ke7 55.Bf3 a5 56.Kb5 Bb4 57.Kc4 Kf8 58.Rb5 Kg7 59.Bd5** A draw is inevitable now - Black either loses the f7-pawn or allows the exchange of the rooks. **59...Re3**

[ 59...Re7 60.Rb7= ]

**60.Rb7 Rc3+ 61.Kd4 Rc1 62.Bxf7 Bc5+ 63.Kd3 f5 64.Bc4+ Kf8** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.06 (flawless)

**½-½**

**D44**

☐ **Gormally,Daniel** **2554**
■ **Trent,Lawrence** **2423**
Jack Speigel Mem (1) 14.04.2006
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

In the main line Daniel Gormally came up with a very interesting novelty, which strongly reminds me of Vassily Ivanchuk's idea, which has been considered in the game Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons/Morelia Linares 2006. Black rejected a piece sacrifice but failed to extinguish White's initiative. It seems that White's approach can cause real headaches for Black but perhaps he can still defend better - let's wait to see future battles.

D44: Semi-Slav: Botvinnik System

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...b5 7.a4 c6 8.e5 h6 9.exf6 hxg5 10.fxg7 Rg8 11.g3**

[ 11.axb5?! cxb5 12.Nd2 a6∓ *( 12...Qxd4 13.Bxc4 Bd7 14.Bxb5= )*]

**11...Bb7 12.Bg2! c5** 1.39/20

[ ⌓12...Nd7 0.84/20 ]

**13.0-0±**

[ 13.axb5 cxd4 14.Ra4 a5= *( 14...Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 g4 16.Nh4± )*]

**13...g4** White is better. **14.Nh4** 0.27/19

[ 14.axb5!± 1.45/23 Rxg7 *( 14...Bxf3? 15.Bxf3 gxf3 16.Qxf3+- )* 15.Ne5

Bxg2 16.Kxg2 cxd4 17.Qa4 dxc3 *( 17...Bxc3 18.b6+ Ke7 19.bxc3± )* 18.b6+ Nd7 19.Rfd1 ]

**14...Bxg2= 15.Nxg2 cxd4** The main continuation.

[ 15...Rxg7 has been just considered in the game Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons/ Linares 2006. ]

**16.Ne4** This very interesting novelty reminds one of Ivanchuk's idea and might have been born under the influence of this game.

[ In the game Sakaev - Yakovich/RUS-ch Semifinal Kazan 2005 Black achieved acceptable play after 16.Nxb5 Nc6 1.17/21 ( Black should play *16...a6!± 0.48/23* ) 17.Qxg4± a6 18.Qe4 0.39/20 (Better is *18.Nf4± 0.97/23* ) 18...Rc8 although White's chances still seemed somewhat better. ]

[ 16.Nxb5!? Nc6 17.Qe2± *( 17.Qxg4 a6± )*]

**16...f5** 0.82/20

[ 16...Rxg7 17.axb5 could have been a transposition to the game Ivanchuk - Vallejo Pons. ]

[ 16...Rxg7= 0.16/21 keeps the balance. 17.axb5 Be7 ]

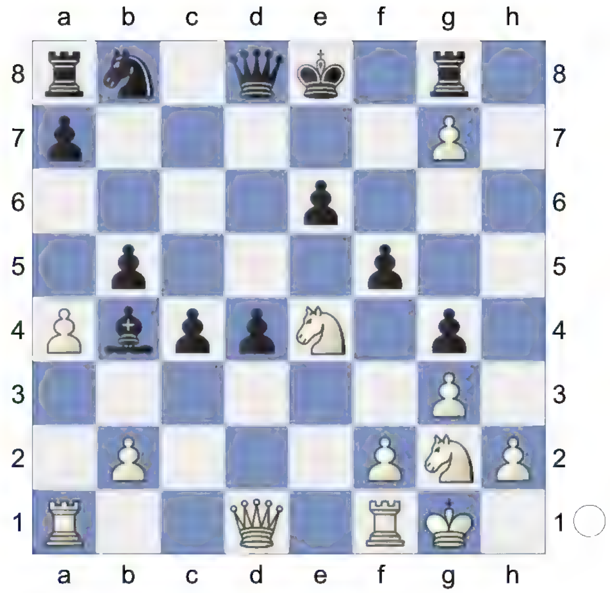
(Diagram)

**17.Nf4!±** Following Ivanchuk's footsteps.

**17...e5** Black's pawns look powerful but he should not forget about the development of his pieces!

[ In case of 17...fxe4?! 1.33/21 17...Kf7 0.87 18.Qxg4→ White's attack was very strong ]

[ 17...Kf7!? deserved attention. Possible play was 18.Qe2 aiming for axb5! Re8 ...d3 is the strong threat.



*( 18...d3* 1.61/19 18...Re8 0.69 *19.Ng5+! )* 19.axb5! with good attacking chances for White but Black's resources should not be underestimated. This line deserves more thorough analysis. ]

[ 17...fxe4?! 18.Qxg4 Qd6 19.Nxe6= ]

[ 17...Kf7 18.Qe2 ]

**18.Nh5** 1.66/18 A dynamic duo of knights.

[ 18.Nd5 -0.36/20 18.Nh5 1.10 could have been parried by Be7! ]

[ 18.Ne6± 1.20/23 Qe7 19.N4g5 Rxg7 20.Nxg7+ Qxg7 21.h4 ]

**18...Nd7+-**

[ 18...fxe4?! 3.05/22 18...Nd7 1.75 19.Qxg4→ was still too dangerous for Black. ]

[ 18...fxe4? 19.Qxg4 Ke7 20.axb5+- ]

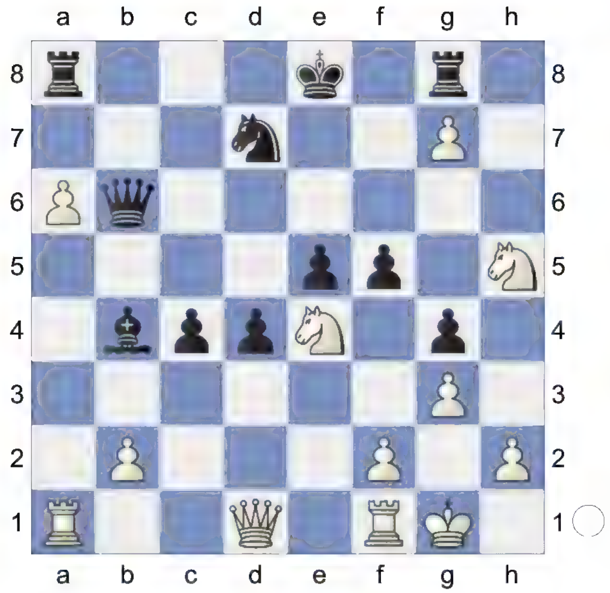
**19.axb5!** Not so much capturing the pawn as opening the file for the rook.

**19...a5 20.bxa6!** White is more active.

**20...Qb6** 2.57/22

[ 20...fxe4± 1.46/20 is a better defense. 21.Qxg4 Ke7 ]

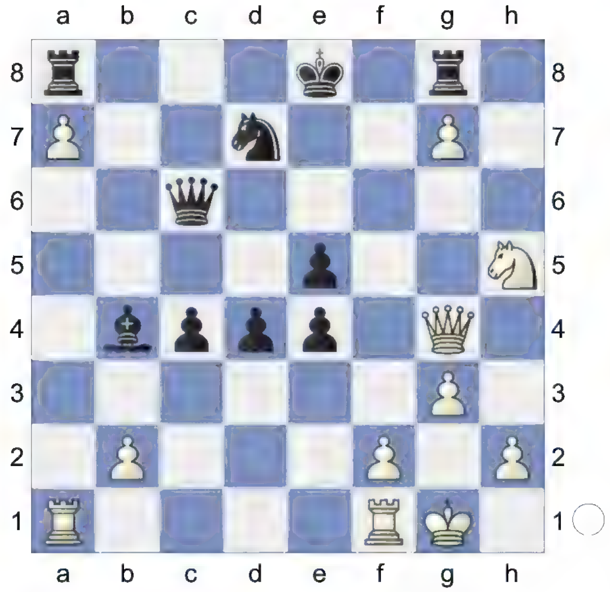
(Diagram)



**21.a7?** 1.10/23 This is a bit slow. **21...fxe4!±** Finally Black takes the knight.

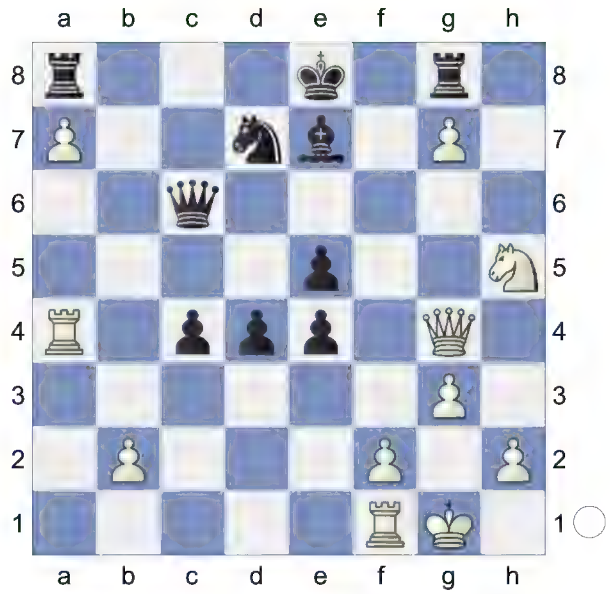
[ 21...Kf7?! 2.00/19 21...fxe4 1.00 was dubious: 22.Qc2 Rgc8 23.Nd6+! 1.42/17 *( 23.Nc5!+-* 2.50/21 *Bxc5 24.Qxf5+ Nf6 25.Rfe1 )* 23...Qxd6± 24.Qxf5+ Kg8 *( 24...Ke7?* 6.04/19 24...Kg8 1.51 *25.Qh7 Rg8 26.Qxg8! Rxg8 27.a8Q* Inhibits Qc6. *Rxa8 28.Rxa8+- )* 25.Qxd7! Qxd7 26.Nf6+ Kxg7 27.Nxd7± ]

**22.Qxg4 Qc6**



**23.Ra4!** Looks beautiful but is actually wrong. Deflection, Promotion. White has strong compensation. **23...Be7**

[ The bishop should have penetrated: 23...Bd2!-+ followed by ...e4-e3! and suddenly White's king could face problems! ]



Wrong way! **24.Rfa1** 0.00/20 Dancing on a razor blade.

[ 24.Rc1!± 0.78/27 Qxa4 25.Qg6+ *( 25.Qxe4 Kf7∓; 25.Qe6 Rxg7 26.Nxg7+ Kf8= )* 25...Kd8 26.Qf7 ]

**24...Nc5!= 25.Rb4** Hoping for Rxc5!

[ 25.Rb4!? Nd7□ 26.Rba4= ]

[ 25.Rxc4 Qe6 26.Qxe6 Nxe6 ]

**25...Qe6?** 5.15/18 This logical move is actually a blunder which ruins a good position.

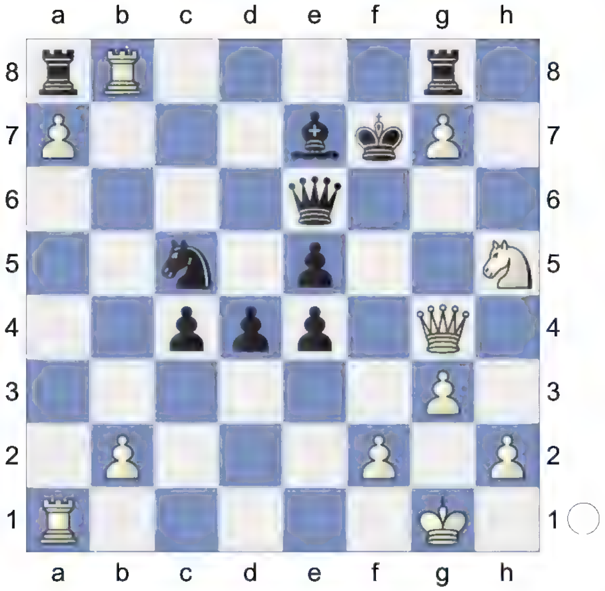
[Black should have played 25...Nd7! , after which White had nothing other than 26.Rba4 with a probable repetition of moves after Nc5!= Inhibits Ra6. ]

[ 25...Nd7= 0.00/20 and Black stays safe. 26.Rba4 Bd8 ]

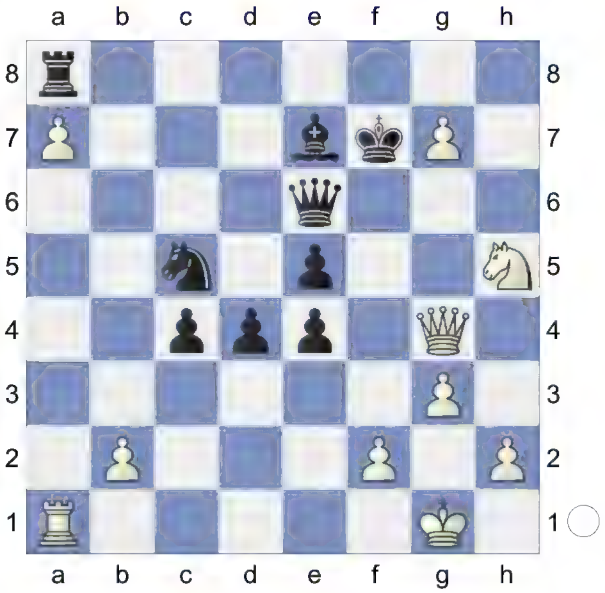
**26.Rb8++-** White wants to mate with Nf6+.

[ 26.Qxe6 Nxe6 27.Rxc4 Kf7∓ *( 27...Nxg7? 28.Nxg7+ Rxg7 29.Kg2-+ )*]

**26...Kf7**



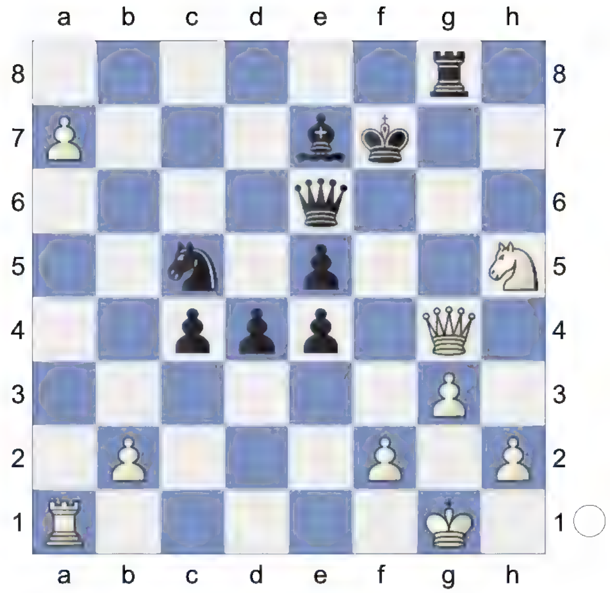
Threatens to win with ...Nxg7! **27.Rxa8! Rxa8**



**28.g8Q+** Probably missed. Decoy, Promotion **28...Rxg8**

(Diagram)

**29.Qxg8+** Remove Defender, Promotion **29...Kxg8 30.a8Q+**



[ 30.a8R+? is the wrong capture. Kf7-+ ]

**30...Kh7** 8.33/20

[ ⌂30...Kf7 4.47/18 31.Qh8 Qg4 ]

**31.Qe8** The rest is easy since Black's king is too vulnerable. **31...e3 32.fxe3 Kh6 33.Qh8+ Kg5 34.Rf1** Threatening mate with Qh7. **34...dxe3 35.Ng7 Qg6 36.Qh4#** Checkmate!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.22 (precise) /Black=0.62

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Vliet,Erik Van 2422**

■ **Richter,Wolfgang 1855**

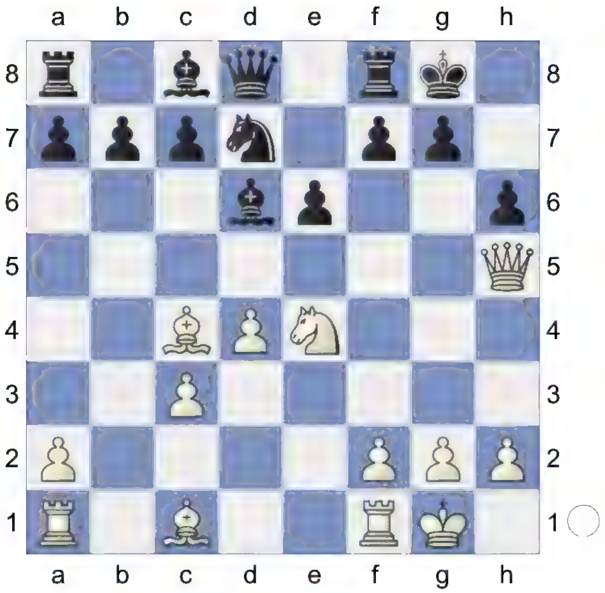
corr CL/2024/C3 25.02.2024

*[Stockfish 17]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4** D24: Angenommenes Damengambit. **6...Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3** Weiß hat minimalen Vorteil.

[ 8.Qb3 Nd5 9.Bxd5 Qxd5∓ ]

**8...Bd6 9.Ng5 h6 10.Qh5 0-0 11.Ne4 Nd7**



**12.Bxh6!** Zerstörung **12...gxh6 13.Qxh6 Re8!**

[ 13...Be7? 14.Rae1 Bh4 ( *14...Nb6 15.Nf6+ Bxf6 16.Bd3 Re8 17.Bh7+ Kh8 18.Bg6+* Abzugsangriff (Schach) *Kg8 19.Qh7+ Kf8 20.Qxf7#* ) 15.Re3+- ]

**14.Rad1** Weiss hat Kompensation.

[ 14.Ng5 Qf6 15.Qh7+ Kf8-+ ]

[ 14.Rae1!? Bf8□ 15.Qf4= ]

**14...Bf8! 15.Qf4 Bg7!**

[ 15...Bd6 16.Nxd6 cxd6 17.Rd3± ]

**16.Rd3! Nf8!** Weiss muss nun ...Sg6 beachten. **17.Qg4** Und jetzt Tg3 wäre schön.

[ 17.Rg3!? Ng6□ 18.Qg4= ]

**17...Ng6** ...Dh4 wäre nun fies. **18.Rg3 Bf6** Gegen h4 gerichtet. **19.f4 Kg7!**

[ 19...Bxd4+? 20.Kh1 Kg7 ( *20...Bg7? 21.f5+-* ) 21.cxd4+- ]

**20.Ng5!** Droht Sxf7! und aus. **20...Qe7**

[ 20...Bxd4+? 21.Kh1 Qf6 22.cxd4+- ]

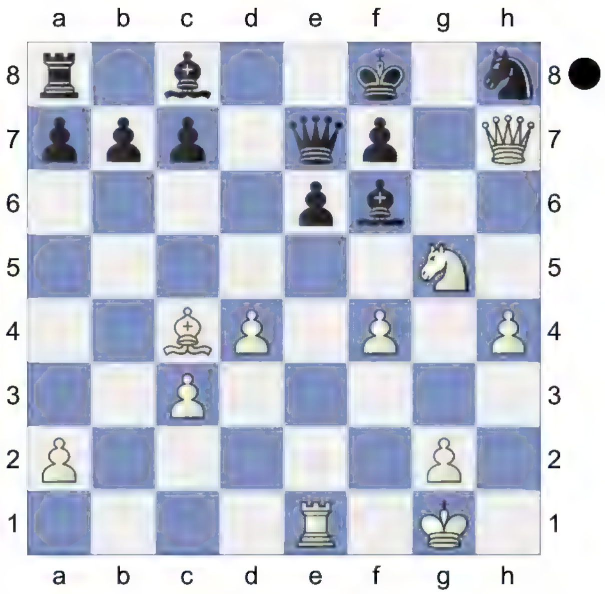
**21.Rh3↑** Weiss kämpft um Vorteil.

[ 21.h4 ist vielschichtiger. Bxg5 22.fxg5 e5 23.Qe4 ]

**21...Rh8** Wehrt Th7+ ab **22.Rxh8 Kxh8 23.Qh5+ Kg7 24.Qh7+**

[ 24.Bd3 Bxg5 25.fxg5 Bd7 26.Bxg6 fxg6∓ ]

**24...Kf8 25.h4 Nh8! 26.Re1**



Zielt auf f5 ab. **26...c5N** 4.00/29 Das kostet Schwarz die Partie.

[ 26...b5!± 0.41/28 27.Bd5 ( *27.Bxb5 Rb8=* ) 27...Rb8 ]

[ Vorgänger: 26...b5 27.Bb3 Qd6 28.Qe4 Rb8 29.Nh7+ Kg7 30.Nxf6 Kxf6 31.Qh7 Bb7 32.Qh6+ Ke7 ½-½ Falatowicz,P (2200)-Probola,M (2247) POL-ch66 sf email 2021 ]

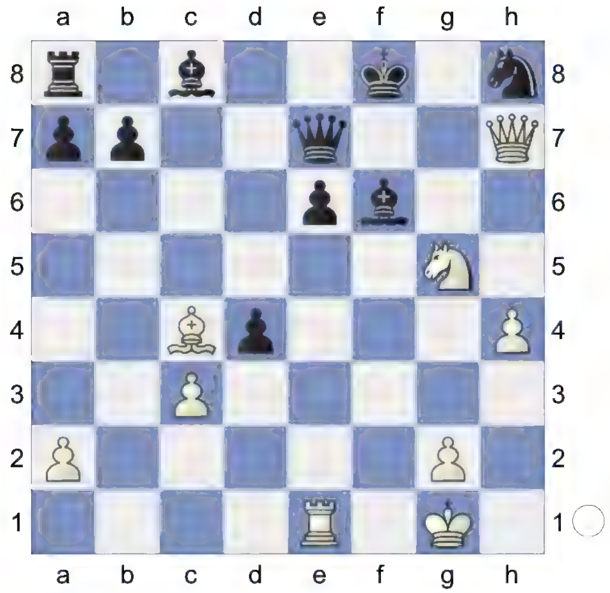
**27.f5!+- cxd4** ...d3 ist eine echte Drohung. **28.fxe6** Weiß steht klar auf Gewinn. **28...fxe6**

[ 28...dxc3? zu gefräßig. 29.Qh6+ Ke8 30.exf7+ Nxf7 31.Rxe7+ Kxe7 32.Qh7 ( *32.Bxf7 Bf5+-; 32.Nxf7 c2+-* ) 32...Bxg5 33.Qxf7+ ( *33.Bxf7 Be3+ 34.Kf1 Bd2+-* ) 33...Kd8 34.Qf8+ ( *34.hxg5 c2+-* ) 34...Kc7 35.Qc5+ ( *35.hxg5 Bd7+-* ) 35...Kd7 36.hxg5 ( *36.Qxg5 Kd6+-* )]

(Diagram)

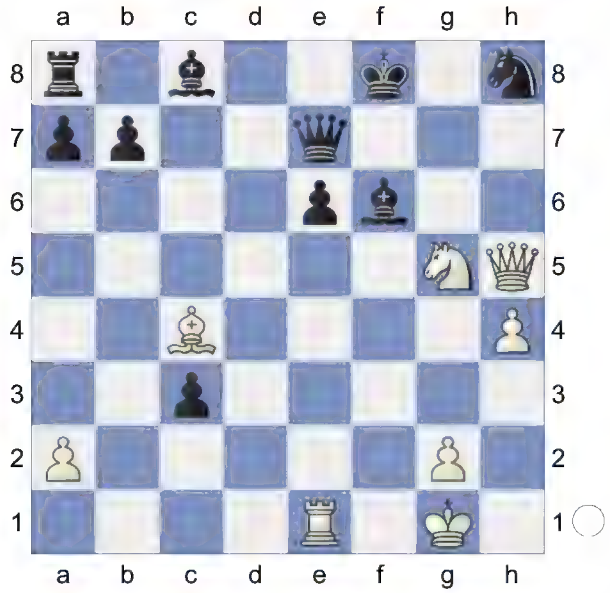
Und ...Dxh7 würde nun gewinnen.

**29.Qh5**



[Nicht 29.Rf1 Qxh7 30.Nxh7+ Ke7 31.Nxf6 dxc3= ]

**29...dxc3**



Droht stark ...Dc5+. **30.Rxe6! Bxe6 31.Nxe6+ Qxe6 32.Bxe6 Rd8 33.Qf5 Ke7 34.Bb3** Gegen c2 gerichtet. **34...Rd6** Wehrt De6+ ab **35.g4 Kd8 36.h5** Verhindert Sg6. **36...Bd4+ 37.Kg2 Kc7 38.g5 Rd7 39.g6 a6 40.Kh3 Bg7 41.Bc2**
Hübsch gemacht von Vliet.
Gewichteter Fehlerwert: Weiß=0.00 (makellos) /Schwarz=0.30.

Verlustzug: - - -
Schwarz=1
Ungenau: - - -
Schwarz=1
OK: Weiß=20
Schwarz=6
Bester: Weiß=1
Schwarz=3
Stark: Weiß=4
Schwarz=5
**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/1**
■ **Anti Vienna Gambit**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 20.12.2023
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4** The Vienna Variation is known to be one of the sharpest in the whole of opening theory. However, in many cases after a well-known series of moves the position becomes rather quiet and White can maintain some slight pressure. **6.Bxc4!?** A rather unexpected and interesting attempt to fight against the Vienna Variation - White simply gives up his central pawn!

[ 6.Bg5 is a common path. ]

**6...Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3**

[ 7...Nf6

**A)** 8.Bg5!? deserves attention: 0-0 9.Qe2 h6 10.Bh4 Be7 11.Rad1 Nbd7 *( 11...Nc6?! 12.Rfe1 see Carlsen,M-Duda,J/FIDE World Cup 2021. )* 12.Ne5 with good compensation for the pawn. In such a typical pawn structure with an isolated pawn Black normally does not have the pawn on the c-file but at the same time White has got a

couple of extra tempi.;

**B)** 8.a3!? Be7 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Qc2 Predke, A-Brunello,S/Bajina Basta 2023.;

**C)** 8.Qc2!? 0-0 9.Rd1! Nbd7 10.Ne5 Be7 11.Rd3 Predke,A-Duda,J/Douglas/Isle of Man 2023.;

**D)** 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Bg5 transposes above.;

**E)** 8.Qa4+ Nc6

**E1)** 9.Ne5 is less promising:

**E1a)** 9...a5!? 10.d5 *( 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Rb8* Holm,K-Meier,G/PRO League Group Stage 2018.*)* 10...exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Bf4 see Nesterov,A-Moradiabadi,E/49th Rilton Cup 2020.;

**E1b)** or 9...Be7 10.Nxc6 *( 10.d5!? exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5! )* 10...bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 with a stable advantage;

**E1c)** 9...Rb8!

**E1c1)** 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ *( 11.Rd1 Bd7 12.Bg5 Be7* Karjakin,S-Duda,J/FIDE World Cup 2021. *)* 11...Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Bxd7 is almost equal;

**E1c2)** 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4! is interesting, see Carlsen,M-Duda,J/Wijk aan Zee 2019.;

**E1c3)** 10.d5!? exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5! Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ White gets the piece back and secures a small advantage thanks to his better pawn structure, but it still seems rather drawish, Aronian,L-Caruana,F/Stavanger NOR 2018.;

**E2)** 9.Bg5

**E2a)** 9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5! exd5 12.Rfe1+ Be6 this position was tested in the game Aronian - Anand/Sao Paulo Bilbao 2011. Here 13.Ba6!? might have been more promising:

**E2a1)** 13...Qc8 14.Nxd5 0-0 *( 14...Bd8 15.Nf4 0-0 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bc4 )* 15.Nxf6+ gxf6 and here, for example, 16.Bb5 Ne7 17.Nd4 and Black is very unsafe;

**E2a2)** 13...bxa6 14.Qxc6+ Kf8 15.Rad1 Rb8 16.Nxd5 Qd6 17.Qxd6+ cxd6 18.Nxf6 gxf6 19.b3 Ke7 20.Nd4 and Black is fighting for equality but perhaps his extra pawn will help him hold on.;

**E2b)** After 9...0-0 White comes up with thematic 10.d5! exd5 11.Nxd5 Be7 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Rfe1 Be6 *( 13...Qb4 )* and here he can get the pawn back by 14.Bxe6 *( 14.Bb5!? )* 14...fxe6 15.Qb3 with the better chances.;

**E2c)** 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 h6 11.Bh4 0-0 12.Rad1 Ne7! Grischuk,A-Duda,J/FIDE World Cup 2021. ]

[ 7...Bxc3?! is suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. The game Pedersen - P. H.Nielsen/Faaborg 2007 continued

8.bxc3 Nxc3 9.Qb3 Nd5 10.Ba3 ( White could have thought about *10.Re1* , intending to meet a logical *0-0* with *11.Ba3 Re8 12.Bxd5 exd5 13.Rxe8+ Qxe8 14.Re1 Be6 15.Qxb7↑* with initiative*)* 10...Nc6 11.Rfe1 Nce7 12.Bxe7 Nxe7 13.d5↑ and White has developed a strong initiative. ]

**8.bxc3 Be7**

[The greedy 8...Bxc3?! is way too risky: 9.Rb1 *( 9.Ba3 Bxa1 10.Qxa1≌* with compensation looks interesting as well *)* 9...c5!? *(*in case of *9...0-0 10.Qd3* followed by Nf3-g5 White's initiative looks almost decisive *)*

**A)** 10.Bg5 f6 11.Qb3!? cxd4 *( 11...fxg5 12.Bxe6↑ )* 12.Bxe6↑ with a strong initiative against Black's centralized king.;

**B)** 10.d5! exd5 11.Bg5 ]

[ 8...Bd6!? scores better, 9.Bg5 *( 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.Qe2* see Korobov,A-Naiditsch,A/ Reykjavik 2015.*; 9.Qe2?! Nd7* Smirnov,A-Anton Guijarro,D/Wijk aan Zee NED 2020.*; 9.Ng5* is critical.*)* 9...Be7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Ne5 Nakamura,H-Caruana,F/Saint Louis 2016. ]

**9.Ne5**

[ 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Rad1 Nf6 12.Rfe1 b6 13.Ne5 Bb7 14.Re3 can be met by Nd5 15.Rh3 f5 16.Bc1 Bf6 17.Re1 c5 18.g4! Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Qd7 with good play. ]

**9...0-0 10.Qg4** Thanks to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin attacking actions. However, Black has sufficient defensive resources. **10...Nc6** Other options cannot completely extinguish White's initiative, too.

[After 10...Kh8 11.Qh3 Qe8 12.Bd3 f5 13.Re1 White's compensation for the pawn is beyond doubts. His pieces are comfortably developed and he can continue further improvement using his space advantage. However, Black has a solid position although he must defend very carefully, Kasimdzhanov - Gelfand/ Candidates (m/4) Elista 2007 ]

[ 10...Bf6 do not solve the problems: 11.Re1 Nc6 12.Bb3!? *( 12.Rb1!? )* 12...g6!? *( 12...Ne7? 13.Ba3 Bd7 14.Rad1± )* 13.Qf3 *( 13.Ba4!? )* 13...Nxe5 *( 13...Rb8!? )* 14.dxe5 Bg5 15.Ba3 Be7 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxb7 Rfc8⩲ with somewhat worse position ]

[as well as 10...Nd7 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rad1 ]

**11.Re1**

[ At the moment White fails to put real problems for Black after 11.Bh6 Bf6

**A)** 12.f4 does no promise much: Kh8 *( 12...Ne7 13.Rae1* is considered after 12. Rae1*)* 13.Bg5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bxg5 15.fxg5 Bd7 16.Rad1 Qe7 and Black is okay;

**B)** 12.Rae1 is also met by the same Ne7 13.f4

**B1)** 13...c5 14.Bg5 Ng6 leads to the same *(* while *14...Nf5?! 15.dxc5 Bxg5 16.fxg5* gave White the better prospects in the game Potkin - Kharlov/ RUS-chT Sochi 2006 - the knight's jump to f5 justified the move Ra1-e1 *)*;

**B2)** 13...Ng6 14.Bg5 c5! This position has been tested in the game Cheparinov - Franco Alonso/San Sebastian 2012. White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn but not more than that.;

C) 12.Rad1 Ne7 A typical manoeuvre. Black moves his knight towards K-side, at the same time preparing to undermine White's center by ...c7-c5. At the moment White fails to put real problems, Halkias - Morozevich/World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (1.4) 2011. ]

**11...f5**

[ 11...Bf6 leads to the line 10. ..Bf6. ]

[After 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Kh8 13.Qh3 *( 13.Rd1!? )* 13...Bd7 *( 13...Qd7!? )* 14.Bd3 g6 15.Bh6 Rg8 16.Be4≌ White keeps the pressure. ]

[as well as after 11...Kh8 12.Bf4 Nxe5 13.dxe5 *( 13.Bxe5!? )* 13...f5 *( 13...Bd7!? )* 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Rad1 Qe7 16.Be5 *( 16.Bd3!? )* 16...Qf7 17.Qf4 Qe7 18.Re2 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Rb8 20.f4 ]

**12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1!?** White simply moves his rook back to a normal place, maintaining the advantages of his position.

[ 14.Bxe6 Bd6 15.Re2 Bxe6 16.Rxe6 Qd7 is fine for Black ]

[ 14.Bf4!? deserves attention:

A) 14...Bd6!? 15.Re2 Bxf4 16.Qxf4± Qd6 17.Re5 *( 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6 Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6 Kg8 22.Rxd6 Rc8 )* 17...Bd7 18.Qe3 Rae8 19.Re1 h6 20.f3 with a passive but defendable position.;

B) 14...g5!? 15.Bd2 Bd6

B1) 16.Re2 Qf6 17.Rae1 g4 18.Qd3 f4 19.f3 Qf5 20.Qxf5 *( 20.fxg4!? )* 20...exf5 21.Bd3 Kg8 22.c4 c5 23.Bc3 Bd7 is acceptable for Black;

B2) 16.Rae1!? A powerful-looking approach - White sacrifices more material but gets full control over the key dark squares. Yet, Black's serious material advantage gives him decent chances to hold balance. The game Topalov - Laznicka/ Novy Bor (m/3) 2013, continued 16...Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qf6 *( 17...c6!?* Bluebaum, M-Nihal,S/ Sharjah 2017*.; 17...Bd7 is Gustafsson's recommendation.)* 18.h4!? gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8! 21.Re3! A very good multipurpose move as White not only vacates the e5-square for the bishop but prepares a doubling of his major pieces along the ...h-file! White's initiative looks threatening but perhaps Black can still hold the balance with precise defence. ]

**14...c5** This typical pawn advance is not so effective here. Black's main problem (his Q-side development) does not seem to be solved like that. **15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1!** White quickly brings all his pieces in action. Black is under pressure though his position remains solid, Ding Liren - Meier/St.Louis 2012.

**D39**

☐ **Cramling,Pia** **2525**

■ **Brunner,Lucas** **2525**

Biel_166581 (10) 1994

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The knight sacrifice White tried in this game was dangerous for Black some 15-20 years ago but now it is known to be drawish. The main reason: Black simply ignores the gift and continues his development - a rather surprising but efficient approach.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The knight sacrifice White tried in this game was dangerous for Black some 15-20 years ago but now it is known to be drawish. The main reason: Black simply ignores the gift and continues his development - a rather surprising but efficient approach.'

**1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.Nc3 e6 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qe2 Nd7 11.Bb3 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bd7 13.Rd1 D 24/01 2003 ]

[ 6.Bf4 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Nb5 Bd7 Chapter-Games Chapter 2 (2) ]

[ 6.e5 Nd5 7.Bd2 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Qe2 Nd7 12.Rfd1 cxd4 13.cxd4 Nb6 14.Ba5 D 24/01-N,N 2003 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qb3 a6 13.Bxd7+** -0.04/18

[ 13.Be2± 0.36/20 ]

**13...Nxd7=** The position is equal.

**14.Nxe6!? Rc8!** This rather unexpected move, introduced by Georgian player Lasha Dzandzgava, is the most convincing way to solve the problems. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'After'

[In case of 14...Qe5 0.42/22 14...Rc8 0.00 White gets small advantage after 15.Ng7+! Kf8 16.Nf5! Qb4+ would now be deadly. Qxe4+ 17.Ne3 Hoping for Rd1. Nc5 18.Qb4!± ]

[ 14...Rc8!? 15.0-0 ( *15.Qxb7? Qxc3+ 16.Ke2 Qc2+ 17.Ke1 fxe6-+* ) 15...Rxc3 ( *15...fxe6? 16.Qxe6+ Kf8 17.Qxd7+-* ) 16.Ng7+ ( *16.Qxb7 fxe6 17.Qa8+ Qd8∓* ) 16...Kf8 17.Qxb7 Rc7-+ ]

**15.0-0! Rxc3**

[ 15...fxe6? too greedy. 16.Qxe6+ Kf8 ( *16...Kd8? 17.Rfd1+-* ) 17.Rad1+- ( *17.Qxd7 Rc7+-* )]

**16.Ng7+**

[ 16.Qxb7 fxe6 17.Qa8+ Qd8 18.Qxa6 Nc5∓ ]

**16...Kf8** Threatens to win with ...Xc7.

**17.Qd1 Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Qg5 19.Qxd7** Black's K-side pawn structure is seriously damaged but White is late to get his rooks into play. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Black's K-side pawn structure is seriously damaged but White is late to get his rooks into play.'. Threatening mate with Rb5. **19...Qb5!**

[ 19...b5 is interesting. 20.Rad1 h5 21.Rd5 Qf4 ]

**20.Qxb5** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Or'

[Or 20.Qg4+ Qg5 21.Qe2 Rhc8= and White has no chances to bother Black's king. ]

**20...axb5** Endgame. KRR-KRR **21.f3** White is fortifying his K-side pawn structure. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The game Tukmakov - Dhandzhgava, USSR-ch FL Simferopol 1988 ended after'

[ 21.Rfb1 Ra8 22.Rxb5 is met by Rxa2!= ]

[ The game Tukmakov - Dhandzhgava, USSR-ch FL Simferopol 1988 ended after 21.Rab1 Ra8 22.Rxb5 Rxa2 23.Rxb7 Rc4 and here a draw was agreed. White loses his e4-pawn since Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and here a draw was agreed. White loses his e4-pawn since' 24.f3 is met by Rcc2 ]

**21...Rhc8** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'In the game P.Cramling - Magem Badals, Pamplona 1996 a draw was agreed after'

> [ In the game P.Cramling - Magem Badals, Pamplona 1996 a draw was agreed after 21...Rc2 22.Rf2 Rhc8 23.Rxc2 Rxc2 but after 24.Rb1⩲ White could achieve the position similar to the actual game. ]

**22.Rab1 Rc2 23.Rf2 Rc1+ 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+** KR-KR **25.Rf1 Rc4**

> [ 25...Rc2 26.Rb1⩲ ]

**26.Rd1⩲** Thanks to his better pawn structure White has got a slight edge in this endgame but it is certainly drawish. The maximum White can achieve is the endgame 4 vs 3 on the K-side but the doubled f-pawns make Black's defences easier in such kinds of endgames. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Thanks to his better pawn structure White has got a slight edge in this endgame but it is certainly drawish. The maximum White can achieve is the endgame 4 vs 3 on the K-side but the doubled f-pawns make Black's defences easier in such kinds of endgames.' **26...b4 27.h4 Rc2 28.Rb1 Rc4 29.Kf2 b5**

> [ 29...f5!? 30.exf5 Rxh4 was worth considering. ]

**30.g4 Kf8 31.Kg3 h6 32.Kf4 Kg7 33.Rb2 Kg6 34.Rb3 Kg7 35.Kf5 Rc5+ 36.Kf4 Rc4 37.h5 Kf8 38.Rd3** White must get his rook into play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White must get his rook into play.' **38...Rc2 39.Rd5 Rxa2 40.Rxb5 Rb2 41.Kf5 Kg7 42.f4** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Not'

> [Not 42.Rb6 b3 43.Rxf6? Black must now prevent Rb6. Rf2 and White loses his f-pawn. ]

**42...b3 43.Rb6 Rc2** It was pointless to keep the rook in front of the b-pawn so Black also gets his rook back into play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It was pointless to keep the rook in front of the b-pawn so Black also gets his rook back into play.' **44.Rxb3** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Of course, not'

> [Of course, not 44.Rxf6?? -6.88/26 44.Rxb3 0.01 Rc5+ 45.e5 Rb5-+ and Black's b-pawn was unstoppable. Dodges Rb6 ]

**44...Rc5+ 45.e5 fxe5 46.fxe5 Rc1** White has won a pawn but the position is drawish. Black's defence is rather simple - his rook is giving checks or keeps White's pieces tied up with the pawns. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White has won a pawn but the position is drawish. Black's defence is rather simple - his rook is giving checks or keeps White's pieces tied up with the pawns.' **47.Rb4** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Or'

> [Or 47.Rb7 Rf1+ 48.Ke4 Re1+ and so on. ]

**47...Rf1+ 48.Ke4 Re1+ 49.Kd5 Rd1+ 50.Rd4 Re1 51.Kd6 Re2 52.Rf4 Ra2 53.Kd5 Rd2+ 54.Ke4 Rd1 55.Kf5 Rg1 56.Rf2 Re1 57.g5** There were no other fruitful ideas. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'There were no other fruitful ideas.' **57...hxg5 58.h6+** Deflection **58...Kxh6 59.Kf6 Kh5**

> [ 59...Re4 was also good enough: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'was also good enough:'. ...Rf4+ is the strong threat. 60.Kxf7 White threatens Rh2+ and mate. Rf4+ 61.Rxf4 gxf4 62.e6 e7 would kill now. f3= ]

**60.Rf5 Kh4 61.Rxg5** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Or'

> [Or 61.Kxf7 g4 62.e6 g3= and so on. ]

**61...Rf1+ 62.Rf5 Rxf5+ 63.Kxf5** Intending Kf6 and mate. **63...Kg3!**

**64.Kf6**

[ 64.Kg5!? ]

**64...Kf4 65.Kxf7 Kxe5** There are no more resources to play so the scoresheets were signed. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'There are no more resources to play so the scoresheets were signed.'. An interesting draw.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless)

½-½

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/2**
■ **Early Deviations**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 17.05.2023
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

Nxd4 Bd7 Nh5 Bf8 see Li ,S-Parligras,M/ Changsha CHN 2019.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4**

[ 5.e3 might limit White's possibilities to the QGA with a2-a4 only: a6

**A)** in case of 6.Bxc4 Black is supposed to be fine after b5 7.Bd3 c5 (*the preliminary 7...Bb7 is another option*) 8.a4 b4 9.Ne4 Nbd7 and Black is okay, Kramnik - Kasparov/Zurich (Korchnoi Birthday KO) 2001. This position usually arises from a different move order: 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Bd3 (The Meran Variation!) dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 and here instead of 9. e4 White sometimes plays 9. a4 and after 9... b4 10. Ne4 c5 we reach the same position! Theory and practice do not promise much for White here - see D48 Meran/5 for details;

**B)** 6.a4

**B1)** 6...b6 seems like a good line for Black, 7.Bxc4 Bb7 8.Qe2 c5 9.0-0 Manolache,M-Istratescu,A/Eforie Nord 2017.;

**B2)** the rather unusual 6...Bb4 should not be fully equalising: 7.Bxc4 b6!? ( in case of an immediate *7...c5 8.0-0 0-0* Black would face problems due to his advanced bishop after *9.Na2!?* ) 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Qb3! Qe7 ( *9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Bxf3 11.gxf3* was certainly better for White but in fact Black's position was playable after *Nc6 12.Qc2 0-0* ) 10.e4! and White seized the initiative, I.Sokolov - Golod/ Caleta 2009;

**B3)** 6...c5 7.Bxc4 - see D27 with 7. a4 ]

[ White can get the pawn back by 5.Qa4+ but the advanced position of his queen might help Black to gain some time for development: c6 6.Qxc4 b5 This position can arise via various order of moves and it is actually considered in the chapter "D30 Slav Triangle/2 - White supports c4-pawn by Qd1-b3". ]

[ 5.Bg5!? is an interesting order of moves, which might help White to avoid main lines of the Vienna Variation and get playable position with reasonable chances to advantage. Black might try

**A)** 5...c6 6.e4 b5 would be a transposition to the Botvinnik;

**B)** Black might also try 5...a6!?

**B1)** 6.e3 b5 7.a4 can be met with

**B1a)** 7...b4 is also playable:

8.Nb1 *( 8.Ne4 Bb7 )* 8...Bb7 9.Bxc4 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.Nb3 c5 and Black solves opening problems;

**B1b)** 7...c6!? 8.axb5 cxb5 9.Nxb5 axb5! 10.Rxa8 Bb7=∞ with good compensation for the exchange. Curiously enough, a very similar position might be reached in the line 5. Bg5 dxc4!? in the D15 Chebanenko system/6;

**B2)** 6.a4 can be well met with Nc6 7.e3 (In case of *7.e4* Black plays the same *Na5* with a good play, for example, *8.e5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Nxg5 hxg5 11.Bxg5 Be7* and so on *)* 7...Na5 8.Ne5 c5 9.Bxc4 *( 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nxc4 cxd4 11.exd4 Rg8 12.g3 Bb4* is acceptable for Black*)* 9...cxd4 10.exd4 Nxc4 11.Nxc4 This position arose in the game Eljanov - Sorokin/ RUS-chT Sochi 2005, in which Black solved his problems in by a tricky a5!? Otherwise White would advance this pawn further, then putting his knight to b6, increasing effect of the central push d4-d5. 12.Bxf6 This idea is tempting but Black has sufficient defensive resources. *( 12.0-0!? Be7 13.d5!* was probably more promising *)* 12...Qxf6 13.Nb6 Ra6! 14.Nxc8 and here it was stronger to play Bb4! , followed by 0-0 and ...Rf8xc8 , followed by 0-0 and ...Rf8xc8.;

**B3)** 6.e4 b5 with complications similar to the Botvinnik variation. The game Eljanov - Sorokin/ Moscow Aeroflot 2005 continued 7.e5 *( 7.a4 b4 8.Nb1 Bb7 9.e5 h6* is fine for Black*)* 7...h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Be7!? *( 10...Nbd7!?* is also worth considering*)* 11.Bxf6! Bxf6 12.Qf3! and here Black should have played Bg5! 13.Qxa8 Qxd4 14.Rd1 *( 14.Ne4* could be met by *Qxb2! 15.Rd1 Qb4+ 16.Ke2 Qb2+ 17.Kf3 Qxe5! 18.Nxg5 Qxg5* and Black gives perpetual check after *19.Qxb8 Qf5+ 20.Ke2 Qe5+= )* 14...Qxe5+ 15.Be2 c6!∞ and Black's position was full of resources;

**C)** 5...Bb4

**C1)** 6.e3 b5 7.Ne5 *( 7.a4 c6* transposes to a Botvinnik Variation * [D44].) 7...Bb7 8.Be2 h6 9.Bf3!? Zwardon,V-Sanikidze,T/Euro Online 2020.;

**C2)** 6.Qa4+ is for those who don't mind taking risks, Nc6 7.e3 Bd7 8.Qc2 b5! 9.Be2 a6 10.a3 Be7 11.e4 Radjabov,T-Anton Guijarro,D/Skilling Open Prelim 2020.;

**C3)** 6.e4 c5 is the most common way to play the Vienna Variation.;

**C4)** 6.a3!? Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 White does not want to get the pawn back immediately and in some cases he is ready to give up some more. Apart from the pair of bishops, a good point of this approach is that he is able to maintain his central d4-pawn.

**C4a)** 7...Qd5?! is suspicious: 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nd2 f5 10.e4! fxe4 11.Bxc4 Qg5!

*( 11...Qf5?! 12.Qe2 b6 13.0-0 Bb7 14.f3 e3 15.Qxe3* is simply better for White*)* 12.0-0 f5 13.Qe2 with eventual f2-f3 with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn.;

**C4b)** Protecting the c4-pawn by 7...b5 is playable but White's pluses still more than compensate the pawn: 8.a4 c6 9.g3 h6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Bg2 and here White had a good choice. For example, Bb7 12.Nd2!? a6 13.axb5!? axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Qa1 Nd7 16.Qa3 and Black is under pressure.;

**C4c)** 7...h6 has been tried: 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e3 b5 10.a4 c6 11.Ne5 a6 12.g4!? Bb7 13.Bg2 Qe7 14.0-0 0-0 15.f4 Nd7! with acceptable play. However, this approach looks somewhat suspicious.;

**C4d)** 7...c5 8.e3 The game Lysyj - Lu/Moscow 2012 continued Qa5!? 9.Bxf6 Qxc3+ *( 9...gxf6 10.Nd2* would lead to the same*)* 10.Nd2 gxf6 11.Rc1 (perhaps *11.Bxc4 cxd4 12.Rc1!* is the more precise order of moves*)* 11...Qa5 (After *11...Qxa3 12.Bxc4 cxd4 13.0-0* White keeps excellent compensation for some pawns*)* 12.Bxc4 and here Black should have seriously thought about Nd7! with the idea to quickly develop his Q-side by ...b7-b5 and ...Bc8-b7 though White's initiative should be more than sufficient to compensate one pawn. ]

**5...Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...h6** This solid but somewhat passive approach has gained some popularity during the last few years.

[ 6...c5 is by far the most common way:

**A)** 7.Bxc4 leads to the main lines;

**B)** 7.dxc5!? is another rare option.

It has never been popular but perhaps White can count for a slight edge in the ending, which arises after Qxd1+ 8.Rxd1

**B1)** An inclusion of 8...Bxc3+!? deserves serious attention as otherwise Black will not get the chance to damage opponent's pawn structure: 9.bxc3 Nbd7

**B1a)** White has some other options but it is rather unclear how he can secure the better chances, for example: 10.Rd4 Nxc5 11.e5 Nd5 12.Bxc4 Ne7∞;

**B1b)** 10.e5 Ne4 11.Be3 Ndxc5∞ (or even *11...Nxc3!?*);

**B1c)** but perhaps it is at least more precise to include 10.Bxf6!? gxf6 (*10...Nxf6 11.Rd4!⩲*) 11.c6 bxc6 (*11...Nb6!?*) 12.Bxc4⩲ with a slight edge;

**B1d)** 10.c6 bxc6 11.Nd2 Ba6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.f3 and here it seems more accurate to play Ke7!? 14.Bxc4 Bb5 with equality.;

**B2)** 8...Nc6 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Bxc4 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Nxe4 12.Bb5⩲ gives White a small advantage;

**B3)** The simple 8...0-0 is also worth considering. A possible line would be 9.Nd2 (*9.Rd4!?; 9.e5!?*) 9...Nbd7 10.f3 Nxc5 11.Nxc4 Na4 12.Bd2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.Nd6 Bc6 16.Be2 Rfd8 17.Kf2 Kf8 and Black solves the problems. However, White's play might be improved.;

**B4)** 8...Nbd7

**B4a)** 9.Rd4!? deserves attention: h6 (*9...Nxc5!?; 9...a5!?*) 10.Bd2 Nxc5 11.Bxc4 0-0 (*11...Bxc3!? 12.Bxc3 Nfxe4 13.Bb4↑*) 12.e5 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nd5 14.Bxd5 exd5 and here it deserves attention to simply capture the pawn by 15.Rxd5!? b6 16.Rd4 Ba6 17.Kd2⩲ /±;

**B4b)** 9.Bd2 Black has a choice.

**B4b1)** in case of 9...Nxc5 White maintains a small advantage: 10.Bxc4 a6 11.e5 Nfd7 12.a3 (*12.Be2!?⩲*) 12...Bxc3 13.Bxc3 b5 14.Be2 Bb7 15.0-0 Bd5 16.Nd2 0-0 17.Bd4 Rfc8 18.Rc1 Rab8 19.f3 Kf8 20.Kf2⩲;

**B4b2)** 9...Bxc5 is a natural option, too: 10.Bxc4

**B4b21)** 10...a6 can be met by an interesting pawn sac: 11.e5!? (perhaps *11.Be2!? Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.a3 b5 14.Be3 Bb8 15.Nd4 Bb7 16.f3⩲* with a small advantage is more promising) 11...Ng4 12.Ne4 Ngxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bc3 Nxc4 15.Bxg7 However, it seems that Black can achieve acceptable play by f5! (not *15...Bb4+? 16.Ke2 Rf8 17.Nf6+! Ke7 18.Nxh7! etc.*)

**B4b211)** 16.Bxh8? fxe4 is bad for White;

**B4b212)** while

16.Nxc5!? Rg8 17.Bf6! Kf7 18.Bc3 b6 *( 18...Rxg2?! 19.Rd8 Rg8?! 20.Rxg8 Kxg8 21.Rg1+ Kf8 22.Rg7⩲ )* 19.Nd3 Bb7 20.f3⩲ would still promise some edge;

**B4b213)** 16.Nf6+ Kf7 17.Bxh8 e5!? 18.Nd7 Bd4 19.Rxd4 exd4 20.Ne5+ Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Be6 and Black should hold on without problems;

**B4b22)** 10...Ng4 11.0-0 a6 12.Be2⩲ White keeps a slight edge in this ending, Nyback - Macieja/ Warsaw 2008.;

**B4b3)** 9...Bxc3!? A principled choice. 10.Bxc3 Nxe4 (after *10...Nxc5 11.Bxc4 Ncxe4 12.Bb4 Bd7 13.Ne5↑* White seizes the initiative, which more than compensates the sacrificed pawn*)* 11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bd4 Nexc5! *( 12...Ndxc5?* can be strongly met by *13.Ne5! b6 14.f3 Nf6* and here in the game Matlakov - Landa/RUS-ch Qualifier Ulan Ude 2009, the simple *15.Nxc4* was good enough to secure a clear advantage*)* 13.Bxc4 Rxg2 White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn in this complicated ending but perhaps not more than that. For example, 14.Ke2 *( 14.b4 Ne4∞ )* 14...a6 *( 14...b6!? )* 15.b4 Ne4 16.Rhg1 Rxg1 17.Rxg1 b5 and Black has got acceptable play.;

**C)** 7.e5 This pawn push was almost forgotten but it recently seems to be back. 7...h6 This sharp and risky alternative to 7...cxd4 does not solves all Black's problems. 8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8

**C1)** In the endgame after 10.dxc5 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Rxg7 Black is okay but perhaps White slightly better. For example, 12.Rd4 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.Rg4 f6 15.h4 Rh7 16.Rxc4 e5 17.Bd3 Rh6 18.h5 Be6 19.Bg6+ Kd7 20.Ra4⩲;

**C2)** 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 may also promise better chances for White: cxd4 *( 11...Qa5 12.dxc5 Nc6 13.Nd2!* gives better chances for White*)* 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 14.Rxd1 bxc6 15.h4⩲ with small advantage in the endgame;

**C3)** 10.Bxc4!? is a rare but interesting option: g4 11.Nd2 cxd4!? 12.Nce4 Rxg7 13.h3!?↑ and White has seized the initiative, Moradiabadi - Barsov/ Doha 2006.;

**C4)** 10.Qc2! White is continuing development and at the same time heading his queen to h7.

**C4a)** 10...Nd7 fails to solve the problems: 11.dxc5 Qf6 12.Bxc4 Nxc5 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxg7 *(or 14...Bd7 15.Qe2 Rxg7 16.Ne5⩲; 14...g4 15.Nd2 Qf5 16.Qxf5* *exf5 17.Rfe1+ Be6 18.Re5 b6 19.Nb3 0-0-0 20.Bxe6+ Nxe6 21.Rxf5± )* 15.Rfe1 Bd7 16.Rab1 Kf8 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Bb5 b6 19.a4 Qf5 20.Qd1± and Black's forces are divided in two parts.;

**C4b)** 10...cxd4 11.Qh7 Ke7 12.Rd1 ( *12.0-0-0!?* deserves attention but White's king might be unsafe) 12...Nc6 ( An attempt to stop White's development by *12...d3?* fails to *13.Bxd3! Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 cxd3 15.Rxd3→* and White's has launched a very strong attack, Moiseenko - Bluvshtein/ Edmonton 2005) 13.Bxc4 Bd7 14.Nxd4 ( *14.a3!?* is worthy of consideration) 14...Nxd4 15.Rxd4 Qb6 ( *15...Qa5?* was proved to be bad for Black in the game Tkachiev - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006: *16.0-0 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qe5 18.Qb1! Bc6 19.Re1 Qa5 20.Bxe6!+-* with a decisive attack. ) 16.Qd3!? (Black is fine after *16.Qe4?! Bc6 17.Qe5 Qc5* ) 16...Bc6 17.0-0± White keeps better chances thanks to the vulnerable position of Black's king. ]

[ 6...b5!? is one of Pert's recommendations in his 'Playing the Ragozin' book, 7.a4 c5! ( better than transposing into a worse line of the Botvinnik with *7...c6* ) 8.axb5 ( *8.dxc5* this is harmless, see Jarmula, L-Piorun,K/Warsaw POL 2017.) 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 h6 10.Bxf6 ( *10.Be3 Nxe4 11.Qc2* Ding,L-Carlsen,M/Saint Louis USA 2019, when Richard Pert suggested *Nd6!* ) 10...Qxf6 11.Bxc4 0-0 12.0-0 Bb7 this is Pert's main line, with compensation, see Vidit,S-Duda,J/Wijk aan Zee NED 2019. ]

**7.Bxf6**

[ 7.Bh4? is simply met by g5 8.Bg3 Nxe4 with a clear advantage ]

**7...Qxf6 8.Bxc4** White granted a pair of bishops to his opponent he won some time for development and got superiority in center.

[In case of 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Bxc4 White stops opponent's ...c7-c5 but his queen is not so great on a4:

**A)** 9...0-0 10.0-0 Bxc3 ( *10...Bd7!?* ) 11.bxc3 e5 12.Bd5±;

**B)** 9...Bd7!? 10.Bb5 (or *10.Qb3 Ba5!?* , shifting the bishop to b6) 10...0-0 ( *10...Bxc3+!? 11.bxc3 Qg6 12.0-0 Qxe4 13.Rfe1 Qf4 14.d5 Qxa4 15.Bxa4 Nd8∞* ) 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 a6 13.Bxc6 ( *13.Bd3 e5 14.d5 b5* ) 13...Bxc6 14.Qc2 Qf4 followed by ... f7-f5 with good counterplay. ]

[ 8.e5

**A)** 8...Qe7?! might be weaker: 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4?! ( *10...Bxc3!; 10...0-0?! 11.d5* ) 11.Qxd4?! ( *11.Ne4!* and Black might face additional problems with his bishop on b4) 11...Nc6? Pisu,R-Rakotomaharo,F/Bucharest ROU 2023.;

**B)** 8...Qd8 9.Bxc4 ( in case of *9.Qa4+ Nc6 10.Bxc4 Bd7 11.Qc2 Ne7!* is the best response: *12.0-0 Bc6 13.Ne4 Nd5 14.a3 Be7 15.Rac1 a5!? 16.Rfe1 a4 17.Ba2 Nb6 18.Qe2 Bxe4!? 19.Qxe4 c6 20.Red1 Ra5 21.Ne1 Nd5 22.Nd3* *h5!? 23.Rc2 g6* and Black is doing well *)* 9...c5 10.0-0 *( 10.d5!? )* 10...cxd4 11.Ne4 0-0 would be a transposition to the lines with 8. Bc4 ]

**8...c5** Black attacks opponent's center without delay.

[ 8...0-0 9.0-0 c5 gives White wider choice: 10.e5 Qd8

**A)** 11.Ne4 a3 is the strong threat. cxd4 would be a transposition to 8... c5;

**B)** 11.a3 -0.01/23 11.Qe2 0.48 is well met by Bxc3 12.bxc3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bd7;

**C)** the concrete 11.dxc5!? is worth considering: Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 Bxc3 *( 12...Bxc5 13.Rac1⩲ )* 13.bxc3 Nd7 *( 13...Bd7 14.Rab1 )* 14.c6 bxc6 15.Rd6⩲ with a certain pressure in the ending.;

**D)** 11.Qe2⩲ 0.46/21 was preferrable.;

**E)** 11.d5 0.04/21 11...Bxc3= 12.bxc3 exd5 13.Bxd5 Nc6 is okay for Black according to praxis, 14.Re1 Qc7 15.Qa4 Be6! see Korobov,A-Van Foreest,L/ Wijk aan Zee NED 2018. ]

**9.0-0**

[ 9.e5 Qd8 10.0-0 is a transposition. ]

**9...cxd4 10.e5**

[ 10.Nb5 has its point but Black gets acceptable play by Qe7 Prevents Nc7+. 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Nxa7 Bc5 13.Nxc8 Rxc8 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.Qe2 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4=∞ with compensation thanks to his strong bishop. Yet, White still has the extra pawn so it might not be to everyone's taste to play for a draw in such style. ]

**10...Qd8 11.Ne4** The most challenging. A very similar position with White's pawn on a4 may be reached in the Slav Defence after the moves 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 a4 e6 6 e4 Bb4 7 Bg5 etc., but it is actually considered in "D44 Botvinnik Variation/1 Early Deviations". White has compensation. White has an edge. **11...0-0**

[The natural 11...Nc6!? might not be the most efficient way to oppose White's plans:

**A)** 12.a3 Be7 13.Qe2 0-0

**A1)** or 14.Ng3 Re8 1.04/19 *( 14...b5⩲ 0.48/21 15.Bxb5 Bb7 )* 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.Qe4 g6 17.b4 Repels Na5 Bf8 18.h4 Bg7 1.33/21 *( 18...Ne7⩲ 0.68/19 )* 19.h5 with an annoying initiative.;

**A2)** 14.Bd3 g6 0.93/21 *( 14...a5⩲ 0.47/16 is more appropriate.)* 15.h4 and White's chances seem preferable.;

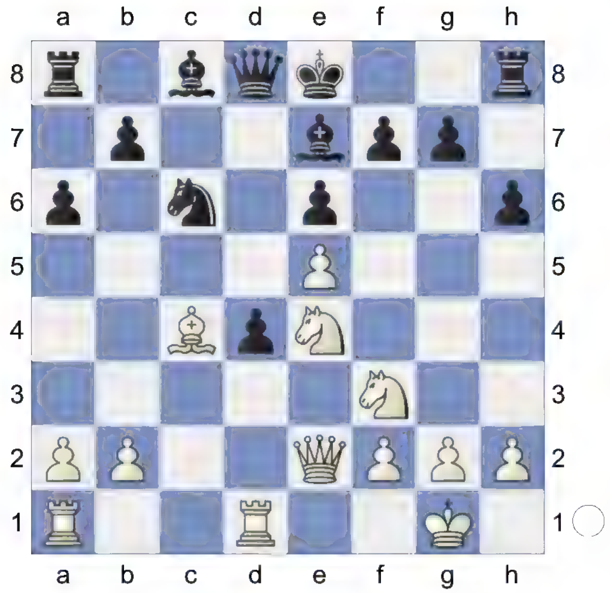
**B)** 12.Qe2

**B1)** 12...a6 13.Rac1 b5 14.a3 Be7! 15.Bxb5 *( 15.Nd6+!? Bxd6 16.Bd5 Nxe5 17.Nxe5⩲ )* 15...axb5 16.Rxc6 Hoping for Nd6+. 0-0! Vidit,S-Santos Latasa,J/Jerusalem ISR 2022.;

**B2)** 12...Be7 13.Rfd1 a6 0.81/19 *( 13...Qa5 14.Ned2 Bd7* Mamedyarov,S-Nisipeanu,D/ European Team Championship 2021.; *13...Qc7⩲* 0.45/23 *)*

(Diagram)

14.Ng3 -0.13/19 Sarana,A-Maghsoodloo,P/Capechecs Online Trophy 2020. *( 14.Nxd4!⩲*



0.81/19 *Nxd4 15.Qe3 )*]

**12.Qe2!** The point of White's set-up is that he is not going to restore the material balance. Instead, he keeps in mind rather dangerous play on the K-side, involving Bc4-d3, Ne4-g3, Qe2-e4, h2-h4 etc.

[ 12.Nxd4!? -0.59/20 12.Qe2 0.45 Qc7!? 13.Nf6+ -1.49/22 ( *13.Qe2∓* -0.61/22 *)* 13...Kh8 -0.59/21 ( *13...gxf6∓* -1.49/22 *14.Qg4+ Kh8 )* 14.Qc2!! -2.13/21 with a long-term attack, Nihal,S-Sonis,F/Tornelo INT 2020. ( *14.Rc1∓* -0.59/21 *)*]

[ 12.Qd3!? Be7 13.Rfe1 Nepomniachtchi,I-Ding,L/Chessable Masters 2020. ]

**12...Be7** The fashionable move, and the most common.

[ 12...Qb6!? 0.81/21 12...Be7 0.39 is a concrete approach. Black is going to strengthen his d4-pawn with the rook, at the same time leaving the f8-square for his bishop. 13.Rfd1 ( *13.Rad1!?* also comes to mind.; Max Illingworth is fond of *13.g4!? )* 13...Rd8 14.Ng3 -0.27/22 (White should play *14.h4±* 0.61/18 *)* 14...Bd7!= 15.Rxd4 Bc6 16.Rg4 Nh5 would now be deadly. Bf8 17.Nh5 Nd7 0.25/22 ( Better is *17...Kh8!∓* -0.51/23 *)* 18.Nd4= aiming for Nxe6! Kh8 19.Re1 Rac8 20.h4 and Black found himself under pressure on the K-side though he still keeps decent defensive resources, Khismatullin - Matlakov/Khanty Mansiysk 2011. ]

[The main alternative is 12...Bd7! with a possible idea of shifting the bishop to c6 and the knight to d7, where it has good prospects, not only keeping pressure on the e5-pawn but also heading to c5 or f8, depending on the situation.

**A)** 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.Ng3 0.03/20 ( *14.a3±* 0.60/22 *Be7 15.b4 )* 14...Bc5! Ding,L-Aronian,L/Tbilisi 2017.;

**B)** 13.Rad1 Nc6 14.a3! Be7 15.Ng3 0.02/21 (or *15.Bd3* followed by the thematic Ne4-g3, h2-h4, Qe2-e4 etc.; *15.Bd3±* 0.65/21 *)* 15...Be8! 0.76/23 ( *15...Na5!=* 0.02/21 *)* 16.Qe4± g6 Huber,M-Horvath, A/Austria 2014. ]

[ 12...Nd7!? 13.a3 0.10/19 ( *13.Rfd1±* 0.75/24 *)* 13...Be7 deserves attention. ]

**13.Rad1 Qc7** The position is equal.

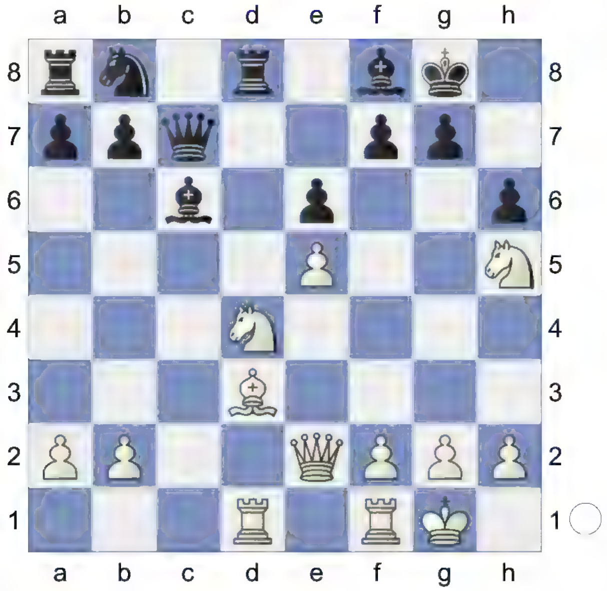
**14.Ng3 Rd8**

[ 14...Bd7 15.Nh5 g6 16.Bd3 Bc6 17.Nxd4! Nd7! 18.Rfe1 Nxe5 equalising, Radjabov,T-So,W/Superbet Chess Classic 2021. ]

**15.Nxd4 Bd7 16.Nh5** And now Qg4! would win. **16...Bf8** see Li ,S-Parligras, M/Changsha CHN 2019. Rad1 Qc7 **17.Ng3** -0.70/23 Rd8.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.03 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

[Bd7 Nh5 g6 17.Bd3 Bc6 1.48/22 *( 17...Nc6=* 0.06/21 *18.Qe4 g6 )*



Nxd4 Nd7. Against Qe4 18.Rfe1? -3.37/19 Nxe5 equalising, Radjabov,T-So,W/Superbet Chess Classic 2021. *( 18.Bb1!±* 1.48/22 keeps the pressure on. *Qe7 19.h4 )*]
[ 17.Rfe1= 0.19/23 ]

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/5**
■ **7 Bxc4 ... 10 Bxf6 Qxc3**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 30.12.2022
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+**

[ In the Vienna Variation Black begins Q-side actions rather early, trying to put some concrete problems for White, to force him to make some concessions, for example, to sacrifice a pawn. Thus if Black suddenly stops at the half-way and decides to complete his K-side development by 8...0-0 , White usually does not have any problems and he can comfortably think about concrete actions. The first moves in Vienna are promoting White's development and Black must at least get something as a compensation, even by taking more risk. 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2! A strong idea - White simply continues his development, not being worried about such ideas as ...Nd7-e5 or ...Ba5xc3 followed by ...Qd8-a5. Bxc3 ( *10...Ne5* could be well met by *11.Rad1 Nxc4 12.Qxc4↑* with initiative*)* 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.f4 e5!? Black is trying to get his bishop into play and so the Q-side rook but it is still not so easy - in the game Ivanisevic - Ninov/ Lazarevac 1999 White seized a strong initiative on the K-side after 13.Nf5↑ ]

[ Sometimes Black does not want to damage his K-side pawn structure and plays 8...Nbd7 before capturing ...Bb4xc3 and ...Qd8-a5, for example, such players as Andrei Kharlov, employs this approach from time to time. Next Black castles with a hope that the weak c3-pawn will make White's life less comfortable. However, White should not be too worried about it. It also gives him the possibility of castling and his chances seem to be better thanks to his good development and active pieces - everything is in his hands to get real benefit by using the advantages of his position. What Black is hoping for? The position becomes unbalanced and in such situation, as a rule, one cannot play just safe moves - strong chess is very much required and so it gives Black chances to outplay the less experienced opponent. 9.0-0 ( *9.Ndb5* cannot put serious problems for Black: *0-0 10.a3 Be7 11.0-0 a6 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Be2 Bd7 14.Bf4 Ng6 15.Be3 Qb8 16.g3 Rc8* with a good play *)* 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3

**A)** In case of 10...0-0 White can continue his development by 11.Re1 *(*or *11.Qe2 Qa5 12.f4* Ivanisevic - Ninov/Lazarevac 1999*)* 11...Qc7 ( *11...Ne5 12.Bb3±* ) 12.Bb3 Qc5 ( *12...Qxc3* is suspicious: *13.e5 Nd5 14.Bxd5! exd5 15.Nf5↑* with a strong initiative*)* 13.Qd2± and White's chances are preferable b6 14.Bxe6!? fxe6 15.Nxe6 followed by 16. Nxf8 with better chances for White.;

**B)** 10...Qa5 Attacking both bishop on g5 and pawn on c3. However, in many cases a capture of the pawn is too risky.

**B1)** 11.e5?! looks interesting but in fact Black has sufficient defensive resources: Qxe5 12.f4 Qc5 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Kh1 h6 and Black is fine;

**B2)** 11.Nb5!? deserves attention: 0-0 12.Bxf6!? Nxf6 13.e5± and White's chances are preferable.;

**B3)** 11.Bxf6 This simple approach can still put some problems for Black but they do not seem too dangerous. Nxf6 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Rb1 Bxb5 ( *13...Rd8!?* is also worthy of consideration: *14.e5 Nd5 15.c4 Ne7* with a good play for Black*)* 14.Rxb5 This position arose in the game Dreev - Kharlov/ chessassistantclub.com 2004, which continued

**B3a)** it also deserves attention just to move the queen back by 14...Qc7!? White must find the way to maintain the initiative otherwise his weak c3-pawn gives Black an easy play: 15.e5 ( *15.Qb3 b6=* ) 15...Nd7 ( in case of *15...Nd5?!* White can think about *16.Rxd5! exd5 17.Nb5↑* followed by 18. Nd6 with initiative*)* 16.f4 0-0 17.Rf3⩲ and White's chances look preferable although Black's position is rather solid;

**B3b)** 14...Qxc3!? 15.e5 and here Black should have thought about Ne4!? 16.Rxb7 0-0 with acceptable play;

**B4)** 11.Bh4 The main continuation. Let's take a look at some other options. 11...0-0 *( 11...a6* is a bit slow: *12.Re1 0-0 13.Bb3 Qh5?! 14.Qxh5 Nxh5 15.Be7! Re8 16.Bd6±* with a clear advantage *)*

**B4a)** Other continuations might also promise somewhat better chances for White, for example: 12.Qe2 Qc5 *( 12...a6 13.Rfd1⩲ )* 13.Rad1 b6 14.Kh1 Bb7 15.f3⩲;

**B4b)** or 12.Qc2 b6 13.Rfe1 Bb7 14.Nb5 Ne5 15.Bf1⩲;

**B4c)** 12.Re1

**B4c1)** Other moves do not solve the problems: 12...Qc5 13.Bxe6 ( White can also make some preparations first: *13.Qe2 b6 14.Rad1 Bb7 15.Nxe6!? fxe6 16.Bxe6+ Kh8 17.Bxd7* although Black gets counter chances after *Nxe4 )* 13...fxe6 14.Nxe6

**B4c11)** or 14...Qh5 15.Bxf6 *( 15.Nxf8!? )* 15...Qxd1 16.Raxd1 gxf6 17.Nxf8 Kxf8 18.Re3 b6 19.Rh3 Kg7 20.Rhd3 Nc5 21.Rd8 Bb7 22.f3 Kg6 23.Kf2±;

**B4c12)** 14...Qc6 15.Qb3 Kh8 16.Nxf8 Nxf8 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Rad1 Qe7 19.Qb4! Qxb4 20.cxb4±;

**B4c2)** Or 12...b6 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bc6 Ra7 15.e5!? Nxe5 16.Bg3↑ with initiative;

**B4c3)** 12...Ne5 13.Bf1 *( 13.Bb3!?* is also worthy of consideration*)* 13...Bd7 The game Sakaev - Kharlov/YUG-chT Budva 1996 continued 14.Nb3! Qd8 15.Bg3 Ng6 16.Bd6 Re8 17.e5± and the very strong bishop on d6 gave White a clear advantage. ]

[Sometimes Black begins with 8...Qa5 , which gives White a chance to protect his knight on c3. However, a principled way is still

**A)** 9.Bd2!? is supposed to be not so ambitious but White might still count for some edge:

**A1)** 9...0-0 deserves attention among other possibilities.

**A1a)** 10.Nc2?! is dubious: Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qg5 12.Qe2 Qxg2 13.0-0-0 Qxe4 14.Rhg1 g6! 15.Ne3 *( 15.Bxf6? Qf4+∓ )* 15...e5 and Black is already better;

**A1b)** 10.Qe2 e5 11.Nc2 Nc6 12.a3 Nd4 13.Qd3 Nxc2+ 14.Qxc2 Qc7 15.Bb3 Be7 16.Rc1 Qb6 17.Be3 Qa6 18.Qe2⩲ with advantage;

**A2)** 9...Qc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 *( 10...Nbd7 11.Nb3 Qb6⩲* does not equalise completely according to tournament practice: *12.Qe2 a6 13.Bd3 Ne5 14.0-0 Bd7 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Be3 Qd6 17.Rfd1⩲* and so on *)* 11.Nb3

**A2a)** 11...Qe5 In the game Bacrot - Delchev/FRA-ch Port Barcares 2005, Black continued 12.Bd3 *(*An immediate *12.f4!?* deserves serious attention: *Qc7 13.Bd3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bc6 15.Qe2* with certain advantage *)* 12...Na6 13.f4! Qd6 and here the more natural 14.Qe2! *( 14.Bc2?! )* 14...Nc5 *( 14...Bxc3!? 15.bxc3 e5 )* 15.Nxc5 Qxc5 16.a3 Bxc3 17.Bxc3⩲ was preferable, maintaining the advantage;

**A2b)** While after 11...Qc7 12.Rc1 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qe2 Rfd8 15.Bg5! White keeps a pull, Kramnik - Vallejo Pons/Tromso NOR 2014.;

**A2c)** 11...Qb6 is also playable.;

**A2d)** 11...Qe7 12.Bd3 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Kh1!? Le,Q-Duda,J/Meltwater Tour Final 2022.;

**B)** 9.Bb5+ , which may lead to one of the main lines.

**B1)** 9...Nbd7?! is dubious as it transposes into a rather risky line for Black after 10.Bxf6 Bxc3+ *(*after *10...gxf6 11.0-0* Black has no compensation for the damage of his K-side*)* 11.bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 , which usually arises after 8. .. Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Qa5 10. Bb5+ Nbd7 11. Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6;

**B2)** 9...Bd7 10.Bxf6 *(* Here *10.Bd2?* is a big mistake due to *Bxb5 11.Ndxb5 Nxe4! )*

**B2a)** a surprising 10...Bxb5!? is interesting but it probably does not completely equalise:

**B2a1)** 11.Nb3!? was an interesting alternative: Qb6 *( 11...Qc7?! 12.Bxg7 Rg8* could be strongly met by *13.Qh5! )* 12.Bxg7 Rg8 with extremely complicated play, which needs further analysis;

**B2a2)** 11.Ndxb5 gxf6 12.0-0 *(*not *12.Nd6+? Ke7 )* 12...Nc6

**B2a21)** 13.Qf3!? Ke7 *( 13...a6?!* failed to *14.Qxf6! Rg8 15.Nd4 Bxc3 16.Nxc6!* and White escapes with extra pawn*)* 14.Rad1 is also worthy of consideration, keeping some edge;

**B2a22)** 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Nxc3⩲ After some complications players have reached a rather typical for Vienna type of position. Thanks to his opponent's vulnerable king White's chances are preferable but Black's pieces are active enough and he keeps good control over the center, Kramnik - Anand/WCh (m/8) Bonn 2008;

**B2b)** 10...gxf6 11.0-0

**B2b1)** 11...Bxb5?! is dubious: 12.Ncxb5 Nc6 *(or 12...a6 13.a3! Be7 14.b4 Qb6 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Na4 Qd8 17.Rc1± )* 13.a3 Be7 14.Rc1 *( 14.Qh5!? )* 14...Rg8 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Nc4!±;

**B2b2)** 11...Bxc3 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.bxc3 - this main line is considered in D39 Vienna Variation/7. ]

**9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bxf6** Nowadays this line is supposed to be acceptable for Black but White would still try to prove that his advantage in development can give him more than just a compensation for the pawn. **10...Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc4+?! seems too risky for Black. 12.Kg1

**A)** Other continuations do not solve the problems: 12...Bd7 13.Rc1 Qb4 *( 13...Qa6? 14.Nb5!+- )* 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bf6±;

**B)** or 12...0-0

**B1)** 13.Qg4!? g6 14.Qf4 Nd7 15.e5 Nxf6 16.exf6 Kh8 17.Rc1 e5!? *( 17...Qb4 18.h4↑ )* 18.Qh6 Qxc1+ 19.Qxc1 exd4 20.h4 Bf5⩲;

**B2)** 13.Rc1 Qb4 *( 13...Qa6 14.Qg4 g6 15.e5 Nd7 16.Qg5 Nxf6 17.exf6 e5 18.Nc6! Kh8 19.Ne7!+- )* 14.Qg4 g6 15.e5 Re8 16.Qf4↑ with initiative.;

**C)** 12...Nd7 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Rc1 Qa6 15.Bh6 This position is clearly in White's favour. The game Stahlberg - Sefc/Trencianske Teplice 1949 continued Nf6 16.e5! Nd5 17.h4! Bd7 18.Qc2± and so on. ]

**12.Rc1 Qa5**

[ 12...Qb4?! can be strongly met by 13.Bxe6! Nc6!? *( 13...Bxe6 14.Nxe6+- )* 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc8 Rxc8 and Black has to defend his damaged position: 16.h4!? *( 16.Qg4!? )* 16...0-0 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Rh3⩲ with a certain advantage. ]

**13.h4**

[ 13.Bb5+ is known to be harmless for Black:

**A)** 13...Nd7? loses to 14.Rxc8+! Rxc8 15.Bxd7+ Ke7 *( 15...Kxd7?? 16.Nb3+ )* 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.h4!+- and White is in time to get his rook into play.;

**B)** 13...Ke7 14.e5 This pawn push does not promise White more than a draw. fxe5 15.Qh5 Nd7 *(In case of 15...exd4?? White has a very important check 16.Qg5+! f6 17.Qc5+ , winning the queen after Kf7 18.Be8+! Rxe8 19.Qxa5+-; 15...f6 looks risky: 16.Bc4 Qa3 17.Nf5+! Kd8□ 18.Rd1+ Bd7 19.Nd6 Kc7 20.Qf7↑ with initiative )* 16.Qg5+

**B1)** 16...Kd6 is too suspicious: 17.Be2 *( 17.Bc4!? is also interesting)* 17...a6 18.Nf3 f6 19.Qg7↑ with a certain initiative;

**B2)** 16...Kf8 17.Rxc8+ *( 17.Qh6+ does not promise much for White: Ke8 18.Qg7 Rf8 19.Qxe5 Qd2! and the Black queen is disturbing White's development, Kaidanov - Ivanchuk/ Lvov 1987)* 17...Rxc8 18.Bxd7 White's position looks promising but after Qd8! he does not have more than a draw by 19.Nxe6+ fxe6

20.Qh6+ Ke7 *(or 20...Kf7 21.Qxe6+ Kg7 22.Qg4+ Kf6 23.Qh4+= )* 21.Qxe6+= with perpetual check. ]

**13...Ke7**

[ 13...Bd7 is a bit slow: 14.Rh3 Nc6?! *( 14...a6!? )* 15.Nb5 Ne5 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Nxb7 Qb6 18.Rb3 Ba4 19.Rxb6 Bxd1 20.Rbb1± with a big advantage in the endgame. ]

**14.Rh3 Nc6**

[ 14...Rd8 15.Rd3 Nd7 is a rare and probably dubious approach. Black is taking too much risk, trying to get winning chances. *( 15...Nc6 16.Nxc6+ bxc6* would be a transposition to the main line*)* 16.Nb3 Qb6 In the game Naumkin - Delchev/ Reggio Emilia 2005 White played a strong-looking 17.f4! , taking e5-square under control: Nf8 18.Rxd8 *( 18.e5!?* was also worthy of consideration*)* 18...Qxd8 19.Qe1!? Ke8!? 20.Nc5 Qb6 and here 21.a4!↑ seemed to be the right way to maintain the initiative although Black still have reasonable defensive resources. ]

**15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Rd3** A critical position for this line is reached. White sacrificed a pawn but has got all his pieces into play. An attempt to do the same usually costs Black his h7-pawn but in most cases he gets sufficient counter chances. Yet, White's chances still seem to be slightly better.

[ 16.Rhc3!? is a very rare but interesting option: Rd8 17.Qf3

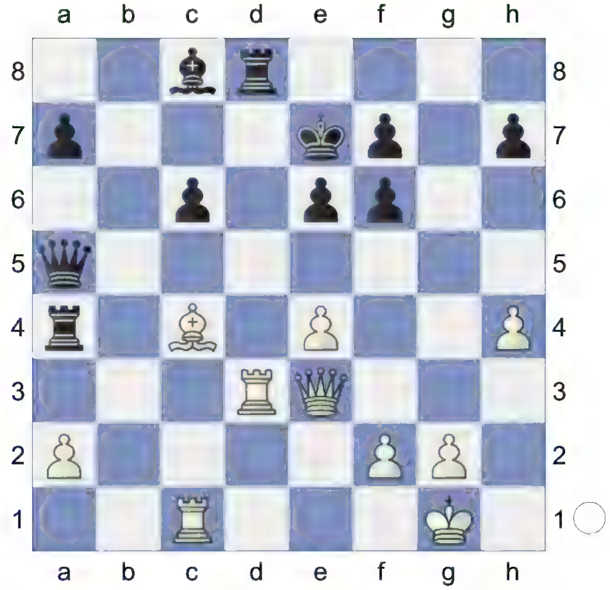
**A)** or 17...Rd4 18.Bb3 Bd7 0.00/27 *( 18...Bb7∓ -0.38/22 )* 19.Rc5 Qb4 20.R5c4 Rxc4 21.Rxc4 Qb5 0.00/26 *( 21...Qd2∓ -0.49/23 )* 22.Kg1= a5 23.Qc3 a4 24.Bc2 a3 25.Bb3=∞ and White has maintained his good compensation for the pawn;

**B)** 17...Rd4= -0.05/22 remains equal.;

**C)** 17...Ba6 0.77/21 18.Bxa6± Qxa6+ 19.Qe2 0.00/29 *( 19.Kg1!?* deserves attention*; 19.Kg1± 0.82/28 Rd6 20.e5 fxe5 21.Rxc6 Rxc6 22.Rxc6 )* 19...Qxe2+= 20.Kxe2 Rd4 21.Ke3⩲ with slight pressure but the endgame is certainly drawish. ]

**16...Rd8**

[ 16...Rb8 is a slightly less popular alternative: 17.Kg1 Rd8 *(* Other options do not solve the problems: *17...Rb2?! 18.Bb3 Qb6 19.Qf3 Ba6 20.Rdc3↑;* or *17...Rb7?! 18.Bb3 Bd7 19.Qg4↑* with initiative in both cases*; 17...Rb4?* 0.75/20 17...Rb2 0.30 is even worse: *18.Qd2! Ra4 19.Qe3* Strongly threatening Bb3. *Rd8*



*20.Bb3! Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Qa6 22.Qe3 Ra5 23.Rd1±* with a clear advantage as Black's pieces are badly placed*)* 18.Rxd8 *( 18.e5!* This pawn push is rather typical for such a pawn structure. Since Black cannot capture this pawn with his queen his king becomes more vulnerable, however, White still cannot gain any real benefit: *fxe5 19.Qh5* aiming for Qg5+. *Rxd3 20.Qg5+ f6!* Black has to force matters. *21.Qg7+ Kd6! 22.Bxd3* Of course, Black cannot be happy with his advanced king but the next move causes some problems for White and so distracts him from the main target. *Qd2! 23.Qf8+ Kc7 24.Qc5 Bd7!* with a good play, Bagaturov - Palac/Batumi 1999*)* 18...Qxd8 19.Qh5 Qd4 *( 19...Rb2!?* is rather interesting. The game continued *20.Qc5+ Ke8 21.Qxa7 Qb6* Prevents Bb3. *22.Qxb6 Rxb6±* with a slightly better for White but drawish endgame *)* 20.Bb3

**A)** In case of 20...Bd7 White gets better chances by 21.Qxh7 f5! 22.Qh6 Rh8! 23.Qg5+ Qf6 24.exf5 Rxh4 25.Qxf6+ Kxf6 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Rc5± but Black still keeps reasonable drawish chances thanks to the lack of pawns on the board.;

**B)** 20...Qxe4 does not solve the problems completely:. Hoping for ...Rb5. 21.Qc5+ Ke8 22.Qxa7 Rb7 *(or 22...Rb4 23.Qa8 Kd8! 24.Qa5+ Ke8 25.Qa8 Kd8! 26.g3!?± )* 23.Qa8 Rc7 24.Qb8!?↑ and White maintains his initiative;

**C)** 20...Rb4!? Black has to play actively. 21.Qxh7 Bd7 *( 21...Qxe4!?* is also worthy of consideration. After *22.Qxe4 Rxe4 23.Rxc6 Bd7 24.Rc4 f5 25.Rxe4 fxe4 26.g4 f6 27.Kg2* White wants to play Kg3. *e5 28.Bd1 Kf7±* Black can probably hold the endgame *)* 22.Qh5 This position arose in the game Norri - Hjelm/ Helsinki 2002. It seems that Black should have played. Inhibits Qe5. Qe5! 0.80/22 *( 22...Qxe4?! 23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.Qxa7±* was clearly better for White*; 22...c5=* 0.21/27 *)* 23.Qxe5± fxe5± White's advantage in such endgame is beyond doubt but Black can probably neutralise the passed h-pawn with his king. ]

**17.Rxd8**

[ 17.e5 does not promise much: fxe5 18.Rxd8 Qxd8 19.Qf3 Qd6 0.45/22 with acceptable play. *( 19...Rb8=* 0.08/19 *)*]

**17...Qxd8 18.Qb3!?** The idea of Krishnan Sasikiran. White chooses a completely new direction for the queen - White is not in a hurry to get the h7-pawn. At first he is going to stop Black's development and, of course, would not hesitate to disturb his king if such a possibility occurs.

[ Some 15-20 years ago the line 18.Qh5 Black must now prevent e5! Qd4 was rather popular but nowadays it's supposed to be okay for Black. White gets h7-pawn back but he moves his queen away from the center while its counterpart is very strong on d4. 19.Qxh7 *( 19.Kg1* can lead to the line we considered in the game Norri - Hjelm/ Helsinki 2002 after *Rb8 20.Bb3!* 19 but Black can also think about other options on the move *)* 19...Rb8 *( 19...c5* 0.00/24 19...Rb8 -0.36 does not solve the problems since White can simply continue *20.Qh5±* following by retreat of the bishop and attacking the c5-

pawn *)* 20.Bb3 Ba6+ 21.Kg1 Bd3 22.Qg7! Bxe4 Black has already got all his pieces into play and he looks fine. However, the passed h-pawn still gives White sufficient compensation for the pawn.

**A)** after 23.Qg4?! -0.93/24 23.Qg3 -0.29 Rd8 -0.19/20 *( 23...Rb4∓* -0.93/24 *24.Qe2 Bd5 )* 24.Rd1= Qe5 25.Rxd8 Kxd8 26.h5 Ke7 Black has got the better chances, Tunik - Vyzmanavin/RUS-ch Gorky 1989;

**B)** 23.Qg3! Rh8 24.Rc4 Qa1+ 25.Kh2∞= with roughly equal play. ]

**18...Qb6**

[ 18...Qd6 is also worthy of consideration. However, it does not fully equalise: 19.Rd1 Rb8 20.Rxd6 *( 20.Qf3!?* also came to mind but Black seems fine after *Qc5 21.Qd3 Kf8! 22.e5!? Qxe5* And now ...Kg7 would win. *23.Qxh7* Intending Qh8+ and mate. *Ke7∞ )* 20...Rxb3 21.Rxc6 Rb1+ 22.Ke2 Bd7 23.Rc7 a5 24.Ra7 Rb2+ 25.Ke3 a4 Against Bb3 26.g4 Kd6 27.f4± with a small advantage for White in this endgame. ]

**19.Qa3+ c5** This position arose in the game Sasikiran - Gustafsson/playchess.com 2004, which continued **20.Qe3!? Bd7 21.e5** White is in a hurry to act.

[However, the prophylactic 21.Kg1!?± -0.24/21 21.e5 0.28 deserved serious attention. Black couldn't defend everything anyway but White could win a pawn in a better situation. ]

**21...fxe5 22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Qxe5±** with the initiative but Black still has an extra pawn and reasonable defensive resources.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

**D39**

**☐ Vienna Variation/6**

**■ 7 Bxc4 ... 10 Bb5+ Nbd7**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 01.06.2022

*[ChessPublishing.com]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5

Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** Nowadays this line is one of the main White attempts to gain some advantage. Here Black faces a dilemma. **10...Nbd7** This is the more risky approach. Black wins a pawn but White develops a rather annoying initiative. **11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1**

[ 12.Ke2 is a rare move, but not a particularly good one, Qb2+ 13.Qd2 Qxd2+ 14.Kxd2 gxf6 Vachier Lagrave,M-Aronian,L/ Bucharest ROU 2022. ]

**12...gxf6 13.h4** Planning to develop the king's rook via h3.

[ 13.Nxe6?! allows White to get the pawn back but gives Black the time to consolidate his position. Qe5 (Surely not *13...fxe6?? 14.Rc1 Qe5 15.Rxc8+!* )

A) 14.Ng7+?! Kf8 15.Bxd7 ( *15.Nf5?! Qxb5+ 16.Kg1 Qe5* ) 15...Bxd7 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Rg8 18.h4 Rg4 19.Rh3 Qxf5∓ gives Black a healthy extra pawn;

B) 14.Nd4 0-0! and White failed to disprove a common assessment of this position as being somewhat better for Black, Ponomariov - Ivanchuk/World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (7.2) 2011. ]

**13...a6**

[ 13...Qb4!? 14.Rb1 ( *14.Rh3 a6!* transposes to the mainline.) 14...Qd6! 15.Rh3 a6 Karjakin,S-Aronian,L/ Berlin GER 2018. ]

**14.Rh3!** White has compensation. **14...Qb4**

[ 14...Qa5 15.Be2 is another line, which is known to be no less risky for Black but perhaps still defendable. ]

**15.Be2 Ne5!** This rare knight's jump was considered suspicious for Black but it is probably not so clear.

[ 15...Qd6 can be met with 16.Qa4!? ( *16.Rc1* 0.14/19 16.Rd3 0.96 is another possibility) 16...0-0 17.Rd1!=∞ with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn, according to the tournament practice. ]

[ One of the critical positions arises after a common 15...0-0 was supposed to be a common option: 16.Rb1 Qd6 17.Rg3+ Kh8 18.Qd2 Rg8 It is necessary to swap a pair of rooks. ( *18...b5?* fails to *19.e5!*→ with decisive attack) 19.Rbb3 Rxg3 20.Rxg3 A critical position for the assessment of the whole line. It is clear that White has got excellent compensation for the pawn but perhaps Black can still defend?!

A) 20...b5 deserves attention as well. However, the more advanced push does not bring Black real benefit: 21.Bf3! Ra7 ( *21...Bb7? 22.e5! Nxe5 23.Bxb7 Rd8 24.Qf4+-; 21...Rb8?! 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5 Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 25.Qg4*↑ ) 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5 Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 25.Qg4 f5 and, despite the c4-square is not available, White can maintain his initiative by 26.Qg5 h6 27.Qg6 Rc7 28.Qxe6 and so on.;

B) 20...Qf8 can be well met with 21.Bh5 b5 22.Nc6↑ with a strong pressure;

C) an attempt to swap queens by 20...e5?? loses on the spot: 21.Qh6 Qf8 22.Nf5 Qxh6 23.Nxh6+-;

D) while 20...Nf8? is also bad for Black: 21.e5! Qd8 ( *21...fxe5? 22.Qg5+-* ) 22.Qh6 Ng6 23.Nf3!

followed by h4-h5.;

**E)** 20...b6

**E1)** in the game Werle - Wells/London 2008 White played weaker: 21.Bh5?! Bb7! 22.Bxf7 Rf8 23.e5!? *( 23.Bxe6 Nc5 24.Bf5 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 promised nothing)* and here 23...Qxe5! was correct: 24.Bxe6 Intending Qh6! and mate. *( 24.Bxe6!? Nc5□ 25.Bf5= )* 24...Nc5 Strongly threatening ...hxg6! 25.Bf5 Ne4 *(or 25...Be4 26.Qh6 Rf7 27.Qd2 Rf8 28.Qh6 Rf7= )* 26.Qh6 Nxg3+ 27.fxg3 Rf7 ...Rc1+! is the strong threat. 28.Bxh7! Bd5 29.Bg6+ Kg8 30.Bxf7+ Threatening mate with Xd8. Bxf7 with a probable draw;

**E2)** 21.Bf3! This strong manoeuvre poses serious problems for Black. 21...Ra7 *( 21...Bb7?* 2.53/22 21...Ra7 1.35 *22.e5! Nxe5 23.Bxb7 Rd8 24.Qh6 Ng6 25.Nf3+- )* 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5! Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 *( 24...Rc7?* 3.49/23 24...f6 2.38 *25.Ne7+- )* 25.Qg4 ( Not *25.Qg8+?* 0.01/5 25.Qg4 2.33 *Qxg8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.Nxa7* when Black escapes by *e4! 28.Bxe4 Nc5!= )* 25...f5 ( -> ...Xd2) 26.Qc4± 1.27/21 On the next move White captures on e6, securing a clear advantage. *( 26.Qg5!+-* 2.44/24 *h6 27.Qg6 )*]

**16.Rb1!?**

[ 16.h5 takes g6-square under control but the idea to push Black's knight back does not work well:

**A)** 16...Bd7 0.51/22 16...Qd6 0.13 17.Rb3 Qd6! 18.Rxb7 Rd8 19.Nb3 gives White a certain advantage;

**B)** as a rule, an early castling would only promote White's initiative in this line: 16...0-0 17.Rb1 Qd6 2.07/21 *( 17...Qe7±* 1.23/22 *)* 18.Qd2→ and so on;

**C)** 16...Qd6!

**C1)** 17.Kg1?! Bd7 18.Rb1 Rd8 gave Black the better chances in the game Shulman - Naiditsch/Montreal 2009: 19.Rc3 ( the pawn on b7 was untouchable: *19.Rxb7??* -2.52/23 19.Rc3 -0.09 *Bc6! )* 19...b5 20.Rbc1 b4 and after 21.Rg3? -0.37/26 *( 21.Rc5=* 0.00/24 deserves consideration. *0-0 22.h6 )* 21...Ke7∓ 22.f4 Be8! 23.fxe5 fxe5∓ Black has got the piece back, securing material advantage;

**C2)** 17.Qd2!? Bd7 *( 17...Rg8?!* 0.67/22 17...Bd7 0.09 *18.Rd1* And now Qc1 would win. *Bd7 19.Qb2↑; 17...Nc6?! 18.Rd3* Hoping for Nxc6. *Qh2! 19.f4± )* 18.Qb2! Nc6!? 19.Rd1!? Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Qe5 with a good play for Black. ]

[ 16.Rc1!? 0.02/22 16.Rb1 0.49 deserved attention as well: Qd6 *( 16...0-0?!* seems weaker: *17.Rb3 Qe7 18.Qd2! Kh8 19.h5* with initiative*)* 17.Rc2!? with active play for the pawn. ]

[ 16.Rb3 has been tried in the game Borovikov - Drozdovskij/TUR-chT Konya 2010, which continued Qd6!

**A)** In case of 17.Qd2 Black could have solved his problems by Nc6! 18.Rd3 (the ending after *18.Rd1*

Black must now prevent Qh6! *Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxd4 b5* was harmless for Black*)* 18...Qh2! 19.Rh3 Qe5 20.Rd3 Rd1 would now be deadly. Qh2= with a repetition of moves.;

**B)** 17.a4!? deserved attention, stopping ... b7-b5. However, Black seemed to be fine after 0-0;

**C)** 17.Rc1 b5

**C1)** 18.Rbc3 -0.24/20 18.Qd2 0.29 Bb7 19.f4 Nc4 0.00/21 was fine for Black. Then it would be a repetition again: *( 19...Ng6⩱ -0.37/22 20.f5 Qf4+ 21.Kg1 exf5 )* 20.Bxc4= bxc4 21.e5 fxe5 22.fxe5 Qd5 23.Qa4+ Kf8 24.Qb4+ Ke8=;

**C2)** 18.Qd2! Bb7 with good play for Black. ]

**16...Qd6 17.Rc3**

[ 17.Qd2 Black should prevent Qf4! Bd7 18.Rxb7 is the main alternative. ]

[ 17.Rb2!? 0.01/21 17.Rc3 0.38 b5 18.Rd2

**A)** in case of 18...Qb6 19.Rg3 Bb7 20.f4 White's chances looks preferable: Ng6! 21.f5 Threatens to win with Nxe6. Rd8! 0.75/18 *( 21...Nxh4? 3.29/22 21...Qc7 0.66 22.Rh3; 21...e5!= 0.10/21* keeps the balance. *)* 22.fxg6± hxg6

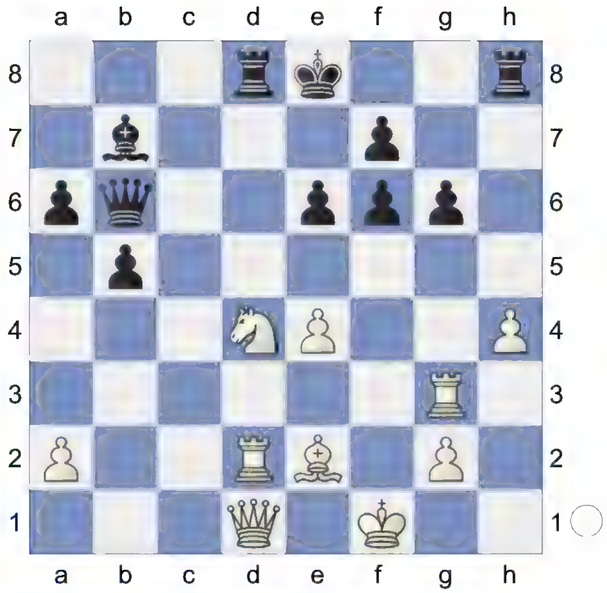
(Diagram)

23.h5! but Black still keeps reasonable counter chances.;

**B)** 18...Qc7!?

**B1)** Here 19.Rg3 Bb7 20.f4? -2.44/20 *( 20.a4= -0.21/19 )* 20...Ng6 was simply bad for White;

**B2)** 19.a4 b4∞ 0.42/19



The position is very complicated. White keeps sufficient compensation for a pawn but Black has also got something to be satisfied with. *( 19...Bd7=* 0.00/19 *)*]

[ 17.h5?! b5 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.f4? -2.36/21 *( 19.Rd1!⩱ -0.31/20 )* 19...Rd8! is bad for White. ]

[ White would also think about such options as 17.a4!? with compensation for the pawn but it requires more analysis. ]

**17...Bd7**

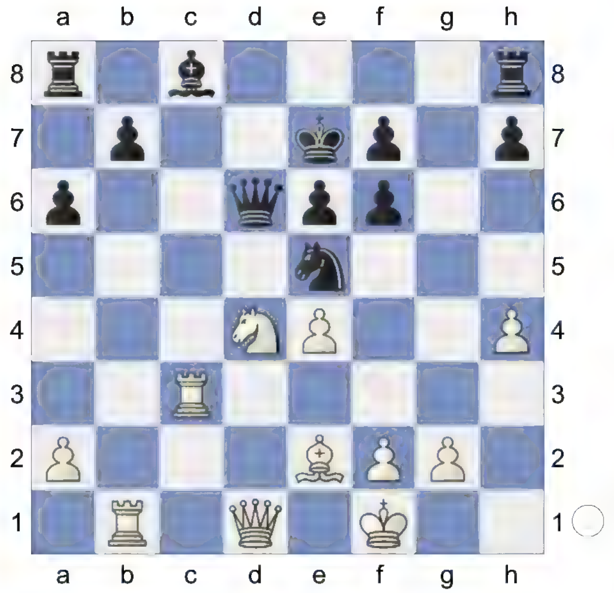
[ 17...b5 with unclear play. For example, 18.Qd2 aiming for Rd1. *( 18.Nb3!? Qxd1+! 19.Rxd1=∞ )* 18...Bd7 19.Qe3∞ and so on ]

[after 17...Ke7? 1.71/21 17...Bd7 0.33

(Diagram)

18.f4 0.61/22 *( 18.Qd2!+- 1.71/21 )* 18...Nd7? 2.57/18 ( Better is *18...Ng6⩲* 0.61/22 *)* 19.Qd2+- Rd8 20.Rd1 Black faces problems ]

**18.Rxb7** White is slightly better. **18...0-0**



**19.f4 Ng6 20.g3** see Radjabov, T-Aronian,L/Airthings Masters KO 2020. Weighted Error Value: White=0.00 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

**D39**

☐ **Lputian,Smbat G** **2500**
■ **Jussupow,Artur** **2645**
USSR (ch) 43/508 1987
*[Kitty Kat]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4 Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!'' **1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

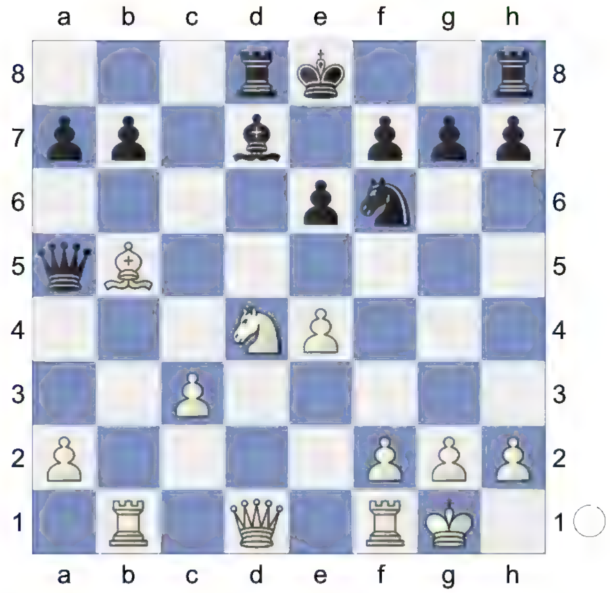
A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16*)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006*)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qa5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Bb5+** 0.03/21

[ 12.Qe2± 0.39/22 was preferrable. ]

**12...Bd7= 13.Rb1 Rd8**



...Bxb5! is the strong threat. **14.e5⇄** White is not keeping still. The position is equal. **14...Nd5 15.c4 Ne7 16.Qg4 Bxb5! 17.Rxb5** -0.68/21

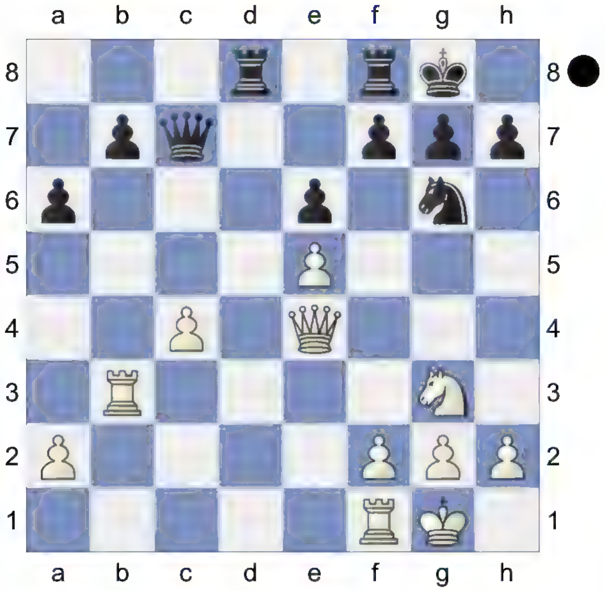
[ 17.Nxb5= -0.26/25 is more appropriate. 0-0 18.Qe4 ]

**17...Qc7∓ 18.Ne2**

[ 18.Qxg7? Rg8 19.Nxe6 Qxc4 *( 19...fxe6 20.Qxh7 b6 21.Qh5+ Rg6 22.Rb2∓ )* 20.Qxh7 Qxe6-+ *( 20...Qxb5? 21.Nc7+ Kf8 22.Nxb5+- )*]

**18...0-0 19.Ng3 a6 20.Rb3 Ng6**
[Don't do 20...Qxe5 21.Qf3∓ *( 21.Rxb7 Ng6∓ )*]

**21.Qe4** -1.56/22
[ ⌓21.Rfb1 -1.09/20 ]



**21...Nxe5** -0.79/20
[Black should try 21...Rd7! -1.56/22 22.Re1 Rc8 ]

**22.Rxb7∓ Qc5**
[ 22...Qxc4? is the wrong capture. 23.Qxe5 Rd5 24.Qb2+- ]

**23.h3 h6 24.Re1** -1.29/21
[White should play 24.Rc1 -0.85/18 ]

**24...Nd3 25.Rf1** -1.60/20
[ ⌓25.Re2 -1.15/22 ]

**25...Rd4 26.Qe3 Qxc4 27.Nh5** -2.16/19
[ ⌓27.Rb3 -1.62/19 ]

**27...Qd5-+** ...Rd8! would now be deadly.

**28.Ra7?** -3.81/19
[ 28.Rfb1 -2.24/22 was necessary. ]

**28...Rd8 29.Ng3 Nf4**

Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/ Black=0.05 (flawless)
[Not 29...Qxa2 30.Kh2-+ ]

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/2**
■ **Early Deviations**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 02.08.2020
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

## D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4**
[ 5.e3 might limit White's possibilities to the QGA with a2-a4 only: a6

**A)** in case of 6.Bxc4 Black is supposed to be fine after b5 7.Bd3 c5 (the preliminary *7...Bb7* is another option) 8.a4 b4 9.Ne4 Nbd7 and Black is okay, Kramnik - Kasparov/Zurich (Korchnoi Birthday KO) 2001. This position usually arises from a different move order: 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. e3 Nbd7 6. Bd3 (The Meran Variation!) dxc4 7. Bxc4 b5 8. Bd3 a6 and here instead of 9. e4 White sometimes plays 9. a4 and after 9...b4 10. Ne4 c5 we reach the same position! Theory and practice do not promise much for White here - see D48 Meran/5 for details;

**B)** 6.a4

**B1)** 6...b6 seems like a good line for Black, 7.Bxc4 Bb7 8.Qe2 c5 9.0-0 Manolache,M-Istratescu,A/Eforie Nord 2017.;

**B2)** the rather unusual 6...Bb4 should not be fully equalising: 7.Bxc4 b6!? ( in case of an immediate *7...c5 8.0-0 0-0*

Black would face problems due to his advanced bishop after *9.Na2!? )* 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Qb3! Qe7 *( 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3 Bxf3 11.gxf3* was certainly better for White but in fact Black's position was playable after *Nc6 12.Qc2 0-0 )* 10.e4! and White seized the initiative, I.Sokolov - Golod/ Caleta 2009;

**B3)** 6...c5 7.Bxc4 - see D27 with 7. a4 ]

[ White can get the pawn back by 5.Qa4+ but the advanced position of his queen might help Black to gain some time for development: c6 6.Qxc4 b5 This position can arise via various order of moves and it is actually considered in the chapter "D30 Slav Triangle/2 - White supports c4-pawn by Qd1-b3". ]

[ 5.Bg5!? is an interesting order of moves, which might help White to avoid main lines of the Vienna Variation and get playable position with reasonable chances to advantage. Black might try

**A)** 5...c6 6.e4 b5 would be a transposition to the Botvinnik;

**B)** Black might also try 5...a6!?

**B1)** 6.e3 b5 7.a4 can be met with

**B1a)** 7...b4 is also playable: 8.Nb1 *( 8.Ne4 Bb7 )* 8...Bb7 9.Bxc4 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 Be7 11.Nb3 c5 and Black solves opening problems;

**B1b)** 7...c6!? 8.axb5 cxb5 9.Nxb5 axb5! 10.Rxa8 Bb7=∞ with good compensation for the exchange. Curiously enough, a very similar position might be reached in the line 5. Bg5 dxc4!? in the D15 Chebanenko system/6;

**B2)** 6.a4 can be well met with Nc6 7.e3 *(In case of 7.e4* Black plays the same *Na5* with a good play, for example, *8.e5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Nxg5 hxg5 11.Bxg5 Be7* and so on *)* 7...Na5 8.Ne5 c5 9.Bxc4 *( 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nxc4 cxd4 11.exd4 Rg8 12.g3 Bb4* is acceptable for Black*)* 9...cxd4 10.exd4 Nxc4 11.Nxc4 This position arose in the game Eljanov - Sorokin/ RUS-chT Sochi 2005, in which Black solved his problems in by a tricky a5!? Otherwise White would advance this pawn further, then putting his knight to b6, increasing effect of the central push d4-d5. 12.Bxf6 This idea is tempting but Black has sufficient defensive resources. *( 12.0-0!? Be7 13.d5!* was probably more promising *)* 12...Qxf6 13.Nb6 Ra6! 14.Nxc8 and here it was stronger to play Bb4! , followed by 0-0 and ...Rf8xc8 , followed by 0-0 and ...Rf8xc8.;

**B3)** 6.e4 b5 with complications similar to the Botvinnik variation. The game Eljanov - Sorokin/ Moscow Aeroflot 2005 continued 7.e5 *( 7.a4 b4 8.Nb1 Bb7 9.e5 h6* is fine for Black*)* 7...h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Be7!? *( 10...Nbd7!?* is also worth considering*)* 11.Bxf6! Bxf6 12.Qf3! and here Black should have played Bg5! 13.Qxa8 Qxd4 14.Rd1 *( 14.Ne4* could be met by *Qxb2! 15.Rd1*

*Qb4+ 16.Ke2 Qb2+ 17.Kf3 Qxe5! 18.Nxg5 Qxg5* and Black gives perpetual check after *19.Qxb8 Qf5+ 20.Ke2 Qe5+=* ) 14...Qxe5+ 15.Be2 c6!∞ and Black's position was full of resources;

**C)** 5...Bb4

**C1)** 6.e3 b5 7.Ne5 ( *7.a4 c6* transposes to a Botvinnik Variation [D44].) 7...Bb7 8.Be2 h6 9.Bf3!? Zwardon,V-Sanikidze, T/Euro Online 2020.;

**C2)** 6.e4 c5 is a common way to play the Vienna Variation.;

**C3)** 6.a3!? Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 White does not want to get the pawn back immediately and in some cases he is ready to give up some more. Apart from the pair of bishops, a good point of this approach is that he is able to maintain his central d4-pawn.

**C3a)** 7...Qd5?! is suspicious: 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nd2 f5 10.e4! fxe4 11.Bxc4 Qg5! ( *11...Qf5?! 12.Qe2 b6 13.0-0 Bb7 14.f3 e3 15.Qxe3* is simply better for White) 12.0-0 f5 13.Qe2 with eventual f2-f3 with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn.;

**C3b)** Protecting the c4-pawn by 7...b5 is playable but White's pluses still more than compensate the pawn: 8.a4 c6 9.g3 h6 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Bg2 and here White had a good choice. For example, Bb7 12.Nd2!? a6 13.axb5!? axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Qa1 Nd7 16.Qa3 and Black is under pressure.;

**C3c)** 7...h6 has been tried: 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.e3 b5 10.a4 c6 11.Ne5 a6 12.g4!? Bb7 13.Bg2 Qe7 14.0-0 0-0 15.f4 Nd7! with acceptable play. However, this approach looks somewhat suspicious.;

**C3d)** 7...c5 8.e3 The game Lysyj - Lu/ Moscow 2012 continued Qa5!? 9.Bxf6 Qxc3+ ( *9...gxf6 10.Nd2* would lead to the same) 10.Nd2 gxf6 11.Rc1 (perhaps *11.Bxc4 cxd4 12.Rc1!* is the more precise order of moves) 11...Qa5 (After *11...Qxa3 12.Bxc4 cxd4 13.0-0* White keeps excellent compensation for some pawns) 12.Bxc4 and here Black should have seriously thought about Nd7! with the idea to quickly develop his Q-side by ...b7-b5 and ...Bc8-b7 though White's initiative should be more than sufficient to compensate one pawn. ]

**5...Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 ( *14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4* *gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...h6** This solid but somewhat passive approach has gained some popularity during the last few years.

[ 6...c5 is by far the most common way:

**A)** 7.Bxc4 leads to the main lines;

**B)** 7.dxc5!? is another rare option. It has never been popular but perhaps White can count for a slight edge in the ending, which arises after Qxd1+ 8.Rxd1

**B1)** An inclusion of 8...Bxc3+!? deserves serious attention as otherwise Black will not get the chance to damage opponent's pawn structure: 9.bxc3 Nbd7

**B1a)** White has some other options but it is rather unclear how he can secure the better chances, for example: 10.Rd4 Nxc5 11.e5 Nd5 12.Bxc4 Ne7∞;

**B1b)** 10.e5 Ne4 11.Be3 Ndxc5∞ (or even *11...Nxc3!?* );

**B1c)** but perhaps it is at least more precise to include 10.Bxf6!? gxf6 *( 10...Nxf6 11.Rd4!± )* 11.c6 bxc6 *( 11...Nb6!? )* 12.Bxc4± with a slight edge;

**B1d)** 10.c6 bxc6 11.Nd2 Ba6 12.Bxf6 Nxf6 13.f3 and here it seems more accurate to play Ke7!? 14.Bxc4 Bb5 with equality.;

**B2)** 8...Nc6 9.Bd2 0-0 10.Bxc4 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Nxe4 12.Bb5± gives White a small advantage;

**B3)** The simple 8...0-0 is also worth considering. A possible line would be 9.Nd2 *( 9.Rd4!?; 9.e5!? )* 9...Nbd7 10.f3 Nxc5 11.Nxc4 Na4 12.Bd2 Nxc3 13.Bxc3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Bd7 15.Nd6 Bc6 16.Be2 Rfd8 17.Kf2 Kf8 and Black solves the problems. However, White's play might be improved.;

**B4)** 8...Nbd7

**B4a)** 9.Rd4!? deserves attention: h6 *( 9...Nxc5!?; 9...a5!? )* 10.Bd2 Nxc5 11.Bxc4 0-0 *( 11...Bxc3!? 12.Bxc3 Nfxe4 13.Bb4↑ )* 12.e5 Bxc3 13.Bxc3 Nd5 14.Bxd5 exd5 and here it deserves attention to simply capture the pawn by 15.Rxd5!? b6 16.Rd4 Ba6 17.Kd2± /±;

**B4b)** 9.Bd2 Black has a choice.

**B4b1)** in case of 9...Nxc5 White maintains a small advantage: 10.Bxc4 a6 11.e5 Nfd7 12.a3 *( 12.Be2!?± )* 12...Bxc3

13.Bxc3 b5 14.Be2 Bb7 15.0-0 Bd5 16.Nd2 0-0 17.Bd4 Rfc8 18.Rc1 Rab8 19.f3 Kf8 20.Kf2±;

**B4b2)** 9...Bxc5 is a natural option, too: 10.Bxc4

**B4b21)** 10...a6 can be met by an interesting pawn sac: 11.e5!? ( perhaps *11.Be2!? Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.a3 b5 14.Be3 Bb8 15.Nd4 Bb7 16.f3±* with a small advantage is more promising) 11...Ng4 12.Ne4 Ngxe5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bc3 Nxc4 15.Bxg7 However, it seems that Black can achieve acceptable play by f5! (not *15...Bb4+? 16.Ke2 Rf8 17.Nf6+! Ke7 18.Nxh7!* etc. )

**B4b211)** 16.Bxh8? fxe4 is bad for White;

**B4b212)** while 16.Nxc5!? Rg8 17.Bf6! Kf7 18.Bc3 b6 ( *18...Rxg2?! 19.Rd8 Rg8?! 20.Rxg8 Kxg8 21.Rg1+ Kf8 22.Rg7±* ) 19.Nd3 Bb7 20.f3± would still promise some edge;

**B4b213)** 16.Nf6+ Kf7 17.Bxh8 e5!? 18.Nd7 Bd4 19.Rxd4 exd4 20.Ne5+ Nxe5 21.Bxe5 Be6 and Black should hold on without problems;

**B4b22)** 10...Ng4 11.0-0 a6 12.Be2± White keeps a slight edge in this ending, Nyback - Macieja/Warsaw 2008.;

**B4b3)** 9...Bxc3!? A principled choice. 10.Bxc3 Nxe4 (after *10...Nxc5 11.Bxc4 Ncxe4 12.Bb4 Bd7 13.Ne5↑* White seizes the initiative, which more than compensates the sacrificed pawn) 11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bd4 Nexc5! ( *12...Ndxc5?* can be strongly met by *13.Ne5! b6 14.f3 Nf6* and here in the game Matlakov - Landa/RUS-ch Qualifier Ulan Ude 2009, the simple *15.Nxc4* was good enough to secure a clear advantage) 13.Bxc4 Rxg2 White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn in this complicated ending but perhaps not more than that. For example, 14.Ke2 ( *14.b4 Ne4∞* ) 14...a6 ( *14...b6!?* ) 15.b4 Ne4 16.Rhg1 Rxg1 17.Rxg1 b5 and Black has got acceptable play.;

**C)** 7.e5 This pawn push was almost forgotten but it recently seems to be back. 7...h6 This sharp and risky alternative to 7...cxd4 does not solves all Black's problems. 8.exf6 hxg5 9.fxg7 Rg8

**C1)** In the endgame after 10.dxc5 Qxd1+ 11.Rxd1 Rxg7 Black is okay but perhaps White slightly better. For example, 12.Rd4 Bxc3+ 13.bxc3 Nc6

14.Rg4 f6 15.h4 Rh7 16.Rxc4 e5 17.Bd3 Rh6 18.h5 Be6 19.Bg6+ Kd7 20.Ra4⩲;

**C2)** 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 may also promise better chances for White: cxd4 ( *11...Qa5 12.dxc5 Nc6 13.Nd2!* gives better chances for White) 12.Nxd4 Nc6 13.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 14.Rxd1 bxc6 15.h4⩲ with small advantage in the endgame;

**C3)** 10.Bxc4!? is a rare but interesting option: g4 11.Nd2 cxd4!? 12.Nce4 Rxg7 13.h3!?↑ and White has seized the initiative, Moradiabadi - Barsov/ Doha 2006.;

**C4)** 10.Qc2! White is continuing development and at the same time heading his queen to h7.

**C4a)** 10...Nd7 fails to solve the problems: 11.dxc5 Qf6 12.Bxc4 Nxc5 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Rxg7 (or *14...Bd7 15.Qe2 Rxg7 16.Ne5⩲; 14...g4 15.Nd2 Qf5 16.Qxf5 exf5 17.Rfe1+ Be6 18.Re5 b6 19.Nb3 0-0-0 20.Bxe6+ Nxe6 21.Rxf5±* ) 15.Rfe1 Bd7 16.Rab1 Kf8 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Bb5 b6 19.a4 Qf5 20.Qd1± and Black's forces are divided in two parts.;

**C4b)** 10...cxd4 11.Qh7 Ke7 12.Rd1 ( *12.0-0-0!?* deserves attention but White's king might be unsafe) 12...Nc6 ( An attempt to stop White's development by *12...d3?* fails to *13.Bxd3! Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 cxd3 15.Rxd3→* and White's has launched a very strong attack, Moiseenko - Bluvshtein/Edmonton 2005) 13.Bxc4 Bd7 14.Nxd4 ( *14.a3!?* is worthy of consideration) 14...Nxd4 15.Rxd4 Qb6 ( *15...Qa5?* was proved to be bad for Black in the game Tkachiev - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006: *16.0-0 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qe5 18.Qb1! Bc6 19.Re1 Qa5 20.Bxe6!+-* with a decisive attack. ) 16.Qd3!? (Black is fine after *16.Qe4?! Bc6 17.Qe5 Qc5* ) 16...Bc6 17.0-0⩲ White keeps better chances thanks to the vulnerable position of Black's king. ]

[ 6...b5!? is one of Pert's recommendations in his 'Playing the Ragozin' book, 7.a4 c5! ( better than transposing into a worse line of the Botvinnik with *7...c6* ) 8.axb5 ( *8.dxc5* this is harmless, see Jarmula,L-Piorun,K/Warsaw POL 2017.) 8...cxd4 9.Nxd4 h6 10.Bxf6 ( *10.Be3 Nxe4 11.Qc2* Ding,L-Carlsen,M/Saint Louis USA 2019, when Richard Pert suggested *Nd6!* ) 10...Qxf6 11.Bxc4 0-0 12.0-0 Bb7 this is Pert's main line, with compensation, see Vidit,S-Duda,J/Wijk aan Zee NED 2019. ]

**7.Bxf6**

[ 7.Bh4? is simply met by g5 8.Bg3 Nxe4 with a clear advantage ]

**7...Qxf6 8.Bxc4** White granted a pair of bishops to his opponent he won some time for development and got superiority in center.

[In case of 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Bxc4 White stops opponent's ...c7-c5 but his queen is not so great on a4:

**A)** 9...0-0 10.0-0 Bxc3 *( 10...Bd7!? )* 11.bxc3 e5 12.Bd5⩲;

**B)** 9...Bd7!? 10.Bb5 (or *10.Qb3 Ba5!?* , shifting the bishop to b6) 10...0-0 *( 10...Bxc3+!? 11.bxc3 Qg6 12.0-0 Qxe4 13.Rfe1 Qf4 14.d5 Qxa4 15.Bxa4 Nd8∞ )* 11.0-0 Bxc3 12.bxc3 a6 13.Bxc6 *( 13.Bd3 e5 14.d5 b5 )* 13...Bxc6 14.Qc2 Qf4 followed by ... f7-f5 with good counterplay. ]

[ 8.e5

**A)** 8...Qe7 might be weaker: 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 *( 10...0-0?! 11.d5 )* 11.Ne4 and Black might face additional problems with his bishop on b4;

**B)** 8...Qd8 9.Bxc4 ( in case of *9.Qa4+ Nc6 10.Bxc4 Bd7 11.Qc2 Ne7!* is the best response: *12.0-0 Bc6 13.Ne4 Nd5 14.a3 Be7 15.Rac1 a5!? 16.Rfe1 a4 17.Ba2 Nb6 18.Qe2 Bxe4!? 19.Qxe4 c6 20.Red1 Ra5 21.Ne1 Nd5 22.Nd3 h5!? 23.Rc2 g6* and Black is doing well ) 9...c5 10.0-0 *( 10.d5!? )* 10...cxd4 11.Ne4 0-0 would be a transposition to the lines with 8. Bc4 ]

**8...c5** Black attacks opponent's center without delay.

[ 8...0-0 9.0-0 c5 gives White wider choice: 10.e5 Qd8

**A)** 11.Ne4 Strongly threatening a3. cxd4 would be a transposition to 8... c5;

**B)** 11.a3 0.01/21 11.Qe2 0.37 is well met by Bxc3 12.bxc3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bd7;

**C)** the concrete 11.dxc5!? is worth considering: Qxd1 12.Rfxd1 Bxc3 *( 12...Bxc5 13.Rac1⩲ )* 13.bxc3 Nd7 *( 13...Bd7 14.Rab1 )* 14.c6 bxc6 15.Rd6⩲ with a certain pressure in the ending.;

**D)** 11.Qe2⩲ 0.37/20;

**E)** 11.d5 0.01/23 11...Bxc3= 12.bxc3 exd5 13.Bxd5 Nc6 is okay for Black according to praxis, 14.Re1 Qc7 15.Qa4 Be6! see Korobov,A-Van Foreest,L/Wijk aan Zee NED 2018. ]

**9.0-0** And now Nb5 would win.

[ 9.e5 Qd8 10.0-0 is a transposition. ]

**9...cxd4 10.e5**

[ 10.Nb5 has its point but Black gets acceptable play by Qe7 Against Nc7+ 11.Qxd4 0-0 12.Nxa7 Bc5 13.Nxc8 Rxc8 14.Qd3 Nc6 15.Qe2 Nd4 16.Nxd4 Bxd4=∞ with compensation thanks to his strong bishop. Yet, White still has the extra pawn so it might not be to everyone's taste to play for a draw in such style. ]

**10...Qd8 11.Ne4** The most challenging. A very similar position with White's pawn on a4 may be reached in the Slav Defence after the moves 1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 a4 e6 6 e4 Bb4 7 Bg5 etc., but it is actually considered in "D44 Botvinnik Variation/ 1 Early Deviations". White has compensation. **11...0-0**

[The natural 11...Nc6 might not be the most efficient way to oppose White's plans: 12.a3 Be7 13.Qe2 0-0

**A)** or 14.Ng3 Re8 1.12/21 *( 14...b5⩲ 0.46/21 15.Bxb5 Bd7 )* 15.Rfd1 Bd7 16.Qe4 g6 17.b4 Dodges Na5 Bf8 18.h4 Bg7 1.30/21 *( ⌓18...Ne7 0.82/21 )* 19.h5 with an annoying initiative.;

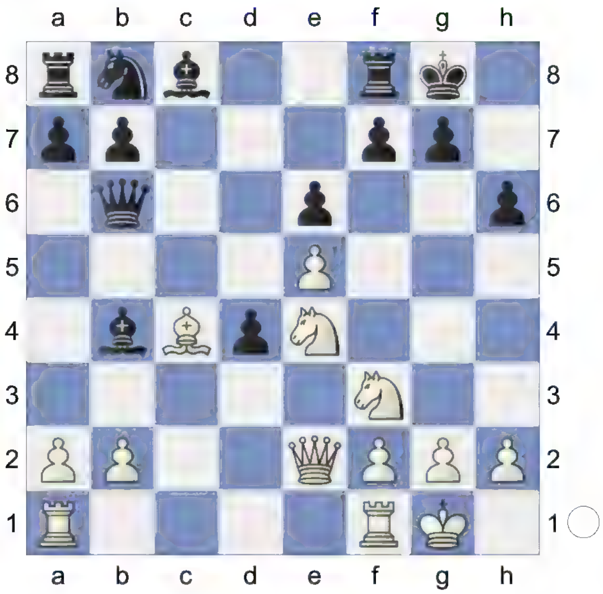
**B)** 14.Bd3 g6 0.81/21 *( 14...a5⩲ 0.43/18 )* 15.h4 and White's chances seem preferable. ]

**12.Qe2** The point of White's set-up is that he is not going to restore the material balance. Instead, he keeps in mind rather dangerous play on the K-side, involving Bc4-d3, Ne4-g3, Qe2-e4, h2-h4 etc.

[ 12.Qd3!? -0.12/20 12.Qe2 0.35 Be7 13.Rfe1 0.30/19 Nepomniachtchi,I-Ding,L/Chessable Masters 2020. ( *⌓13.Bb3* -0.15/21 )]

**12...Be7** The fashionable move, and the most common.

[ 12...Qb6!? 0.90/19 12...Be7 0.36 is a concrete approach. Black is going to strengthen his d4-pawn with the rook, at the same time leaving the f8-square for his bishop. 13.Rfd1 0.41/23 ( *13.Rad1!?* also comes to mind.; Max Illingworth is fond of *13.g4!*; *13.g4!±* 0.90/19 ) 13...Rd8 14.Ng3 -0.29/20 ( *14.g4±* 0.46/21 ) 14...Bd7= 15.Rxd4 aiming for Nh5. Bc6 16.Rg4 Threatens to win with Nh5. Bf8 17.Nh5 Nd7 0.24/24 ( *17...Kh8!∓* -0.36/23 ) 18.Nd4= Nxe6! is the strong threat. Kh8 19.Re1 0.06/22 ( *19.Rf4±* 0.43/21 *Rac8 20.Nxe6 fxe6 21.Qg4* ) 19...Rac8= 20.h4 and Black found himself under pressure on the K-side though he still keeps decent defensive resources, Khismatullin - Matlakov/Khanty Mansiysk 2011. ]



[The main alternative is 12...Bd7! with a possible idea of shifting the bishop to c6 and the knight to d7, where it has good prospects, not only keeping pressure on the e5-pawn but also heading to c5 or f8, depending on the situation.

A) 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.Ng3 -0.03/18 (Better is *14.a3±* 0.61/21 *Be7 15.b4* ) 14...Bc5! Ding,L-Aronian,L/Tbilisi 2017.;

B) 13.Rad1 Nc6 14.a3! Be7 15.Ng3 0.14/20 (or *15.Bd3* followed by the thematic Ne4-g3, h2-h4, Qe2-e4 etc.; *15.Bd3±* 0.64/21 ) 15...Be8! 0.79/22 ( *15...Bc5=* 0.14/20 ) 16.Qe4 g6 Huber,M-Horvath,A/Austria 2014. ]

[ 12...Nd7!? 13.a3 0.13/20 ( *13.Rad1!±* 0.81/20 ) 13...Be7 deserves attention. ]

**13.Rad1 Qc7 14.Ng3 Rd8** see Li ,S-Parligras,M/ Changsha CHN 2019.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.04 (flawless) /Black=0.04 (flawless)

**D24**

☐ **Vienna Variation/1**
■ **Anti Vienna Gambit**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 23.02.2020
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4** The Vienna Variation is known to be one of the sharpest in the whole of opening theory. However, in many cases after a well-known series of moves the position becomes rather quiet and White can maintain some slight pressure. **6.Bxc4!?** A rather unexpected and interesting attempt to fight against the Vienna Variation - White simply gives up his central pawn!

[ 6.Bg5 is a common path. ]

**6...Nxe4 7.0-0! Nxc3**

[ 7...Nf6 does not promise full equality: 8.Qa4+ ( *8.Bg5!?* -0.04/22 8.Qa4+ 0.42 deserves attention: *0-0 9.Qe2 h6 10.Bh4 Be7 11.Rad1 Nbd7 12.Ne5* with good compensation for the pawn. In such typical pawn structure with isolated pawn Black normally does not have the pawn on c-file but at the same time White has got a couple of extra tempi ) 8...Nc6

**A)** 9.Ne5 is less promising:

**A1)** or 9...Be7 10.Nxc6 ( *10.d5!? exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5!* ) 10...bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 with a stable advantage;

**A2)** 9...a5!? 10.d5 ( *10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Rb8* Holm,K-Meier,G/PRO League Group Stage 2018.) 10...exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ Bd7 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Bf4 see Nesterov,A-Moradiabadi,E/ 49th Rilton Cup 2020.;

**A3)** 9...Rb8! 10.d5!? ( *10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Qd7 12.Qxd7+ Bxd7* is almost equal; *10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4!* is interesting, see Carlsen,M-Duda, J/ Wijk aan Zee 2019. ) 10...exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5! Nxd5 13.Qxc6+ White gets the piece back and secures a small advantage thanks to the better pawn structure. Yet, it still seems rather drawish, Aronian,L-Caruana,F/ Stavanger NOR 2018.;

**B)** 9.Bg5 Black must now prevent d5!

**B1)** After 9...0-0 White comes up with thematic 10.d5! exd5 11.Nxd5 Be7 12.Nxe7+ Qxe7 13.Rfe1 Be6 and here he can get the pawn back by 14.Bxe6 ( *14.Bb5!?* ) 14...fxe6 15.Qb3 with better chances.;

**B2)** 9...Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.d5! exd5! 12.Rfe1+ Be6 This position has been tested in the game Aronian - Anand/Sao Paulo Bilbao 2011. Here 13.Ba6!? might have been more promising:

**B2a)** 13...Qc8 0.81/23 13...bxa6 0.22 14.Nxd5 0-0! ( *14...Bd8* 1.88/21 14...0-0 0.67 *15.Nf4 0-0 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Bc4* ) 15.Nxf6+ gxf6 and here, for example, 16.Bb5 Ne7 17.Nd4 and Black is very unsafe;

**B2b)** 13...bxa6 14.Qxc6+ Kf8 15.Rad1 Rb8! 16.Nxd5 Qd6 17.Qxd6+ cxd6 18.Nxf6 gxf6 19.b3 Ke7 20.Nd4 and Black is fighting for equality but perhaps his extra pawn would help to hold on. ]

[ 7...Bxc3?! is suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. The game Pedersen - P.

H.Nielsen/Faaborg 2007 continued 8.bxc3 Nxc3 9.Qb3! Nd5 10.Ba3 ( White could have thought about *10.Re1* 0.09/21 10.Ba3 0.90 , intending to meet a logical *0-0* with *11.Ba3 Re8 12.Bxd5! exd5 13.Rxe8+ Qxe8 14.Re1 Be6! 15.Qxb7↑* with initiative*)* 10...Nc6 0.85/22 *( 10...f6⩲ 0.48/18 )* 11.Rfe1!± Nce7 12.Bxe7! Nxe7 13.d5↑ and White has developed a strong initiative. ]

**8.bxc3 Be7**

[The greedy 8...Bxc3?! 0.85/22 8...Be7 0.33 is way too risky:

**A)** 9.Ba3 0.05/21 9.Rb1 0.93 Bxa1 *( 9...a5!? )* 10.Qxa1≅ with compensation looks interesting as well;

**B)** 9.Rb1! c5! *(in case of 9...0-0* 1.92/21 9...c5 0.70 *10.Qd3* followed by Nf3-g5 White's initiative looks almost decisive *)*

**B1)** 10.Bg5 0.40/22 10.Rb3 0.83 f6 11.Qb3!

**B1a)** 11...fxg5 12.Bxe6↑ 0.22/20 *( 12.Qxc3⩲ 1.02/20* aiming for d5. *0-0 13.dxc5 )*;

**B1b)** 11...cxd4 12.Bxe6↑ with a strong initiative against Black's centralized king.;

**B2)** 10.Rb3⩲ 0.84/20 Bxd4 11.Nxd4 cxd4 12.Ba3;

**B3)** 10.d5! 0.43/21 10...exd5 11.Bg5 ]

[ 8...Bd6!? scores better, 9.Bg5 *( 9.Bd3 Nd7 10.Qe2* see Korobov, A-Naiditsch,A/Reykjavik 2015.*; 9.Qe2?! Nd7* Smirnov,A-Anton Guijarro,D/Wijk aan Zee NED 2020.*; 9.Ng5* is critical.*)* 9...Be7 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Re1 0-0 12.Ne5 Nakamura,H-Caruana,F/Saint Louis 2016. ]

**9.Ne5** White has compensation.

[ 9.Qc2 0-0 10.Bf4 Nd7 11.Rad1 Nf6 12.Rfe1 b6 13.Ne5 Bb7 14.Re3 can be met by Nd5 15.Rh3! f5! 16.Bc1 Bf6 17.Re1 c5 18.g4! Bxe5 19.Rxe5 Qd7 with good play. ]

**9...0-0 10.Qg4** Thanks to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin attacking actions. However, Black has sufficient defensive resources. **10...Nc6** Other options cannot completely extinguish White's initiative, too.

[After 10...Kh8 11.Qh3 Hoping for Bd3. Qe8 12.Bd3 f5 13.Re1 0.23/20 White's compensation for the pawn is beyond doubts. His pieces are comfortably developed and he can continue further improvement using his space advantage. However, Black has a solid position although he must defend very carefully, Kasimdzhanov - Gelfand/Candidates (m/4) Elista 2007 *( 13.Be2⩲* 0.64/20 *Kg8 14.Re1 )*]

[ 10...Bf6 do not solve the problems: 11.Re1 Nc6 12.Bb3!? *( 12.Rb1!? )*

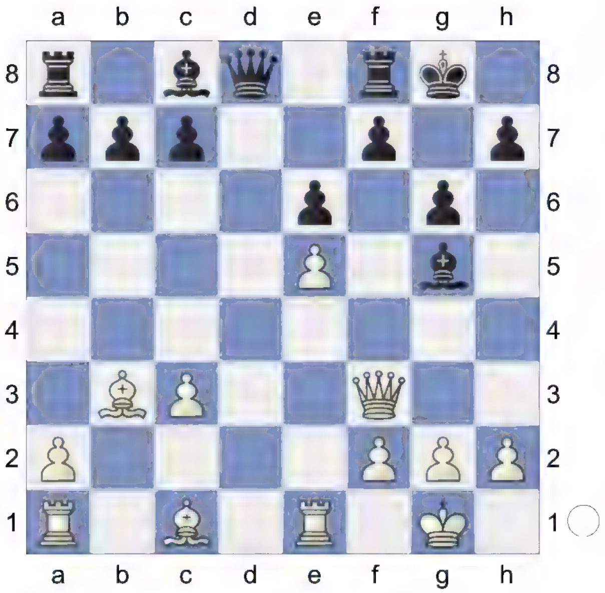
**A)** 12...Ne7? 1.18/19 12...a5 0.72 13.Ba3 Bd7 1.72/18 *( 13...a5±* 1.29/19 *)* 14.Rad1±;

**B)** Black should play 12...a5!⩲ 0.58/19;

**C)** 12...g6!? 1.12/19 13.Qf3 0.70/24 *( 13.Ba4!?* 0.55/18 13.h4 0.97*; 13.h4±* 1.12/19 *)* 13...Nxe5⩲ *( 13...Rb8!? )* 14.dxe5 Bg5

(Diagram)

15.Ba3! Be7 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.Bxe7 Qxe7 18.Qxb7 Rfc8⩲ with somewhat worse position ]



[as well as 10...Nd7 1.10/20 10...Nc6 0.57 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rad1 ]

**11.Re1**

[ At the moment White fails to put real problems for Black after 11.Bh6 Bf6

**A)** 12.f4 -0.26/22 12.Rad1 0.18 does no promise much: Kh8 *( 12...Ne7 13.Rae1* is considered after 12. Rae1*)* 13.Bg5! Nxe5 14.dxe5 Bxg5 15.fxg5 Bd7 16.Rad1 -0.70/23 *( 16.Rf3=* -0.06/20 *)* 16...Qe7 and Black is okay;

**B)** 12.Rae1 is also met by the same Ne7 13.f4 Ng6 *( 13...Nf5!? 14.Bg5□ c5= )* 14.Bg5 c5! This position has been tested in the game Cheparinov - Franco Alonso/ San Sebastian 2012. White keeps sufficient compensation for the pawn but not more than that.;

**C)** 12.Rad1 Ne7 A typical manoeuvre. Black moves his knight towards K-side, at the same time preparing to undermine White's center by ...c7-c5. At the moment White fails to put real problems, Halkias - Morozevich/World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (1.4) 2011. ]

**11...f5**

[ 11...Bf6 0.78/18 11...f5 0.34 leads to the line 10. ..Bf6. ]

[After 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Kh8 13.Qh3 *( 13.Rd1!? )* 13...Bd7 *( 13...Qd7!?* 0.81/21 13...Bd7 0.40*)* 14.Bd3 g6! 15.Bh6 Rg8 16.Be4=∞ 0.09/21 White keeps the pressure. *( 16.Bc2±* 0.58/22 feels stronger. *)*]

[as well as after 11...Kh8 12.Bf4 Nxe5 13.dxe5 *( 13.Bxe5!? )* 13...f5 *( 13...Bd7!? )* 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Rad1 Prevents e5. Qe7! 16.Be5 *( 16.Bd3!? )* 16...Qf7 0.75/23 *( 16...Bxe5=* 0.26/20 *17.Rxe5 Qf6 )* 17.Qf4 Qe7 18.Re2 Bxe5 19.Qxe5 Rb8 20.f4 ]

**12.Qf3** White is slightly better. **12...Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Re1N** White simply moves his rook back to a normal place, maintaining the advantages of his position.

[ 14.Bxe6 Bd6 15.Re2 Bxe6 16.Rxe6 Qd7 is fine for Black ]

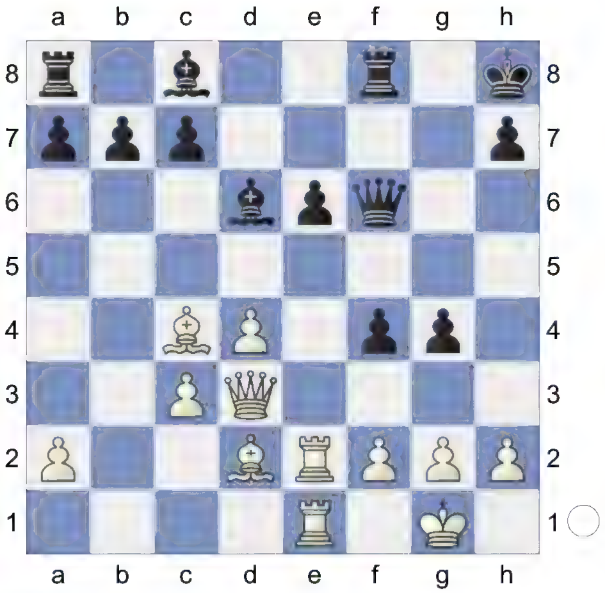
[ 14.Bf4!? deserves attention:

**A)** 14...Bd6!? Threatens to win with ...g5. 15.Re2 Bxf4 16.Qxf4± Qd6 17.Re5 *( 17.Qxd6 cxd6 18.Bxe6* Bd5 is the strong threat. *Re8 19.Rae1 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Rxe6 21.Rxe6 Kg8 22.Rxd6* Strongly threatening c4. *Rc8 )* 17...Bd7 18.Qe3 Rae8 19.Re1 h6 20.f3 with a passive but defendable position.;

**B)** 14...g5!? 15.Bd2 Bd6

**B1)** 16.Re2 0.27/22 16.Rae1 0.79 Qf6 0.73/22 *( 16...g4=* 0.27/22 is superior. *17.Qd3 Qf6 )* 17.Rae1± g4 18.Qd3 f4

(Diagram)



19.f3 0.43/20 ( White should try *19.Re4!±* 0.79/22 ) 19...Qf5± 20.Qxf5 ( *20.fxg4!?* ) 20...exf5 21.Bd3 -0.20/20 ( *21.Re7±* 0.32/21 ) 21...Kg8 0.27/23 ( *21...b6* -0.20/20 deserves consideration.) 22.c4 -0.25/20 (Better is *22.Re7* 0.27/23 ) 22...c5 23.Bc3 Bd7 is acceptable for Black;

**B2)** 16.Rae1! A powerful-looking approach - White sacrifices more material but gets full control over the key dark squares. Yet, Black's serious material advantage gives him decent chances to hold balance. The game Topalov - Laznicka/Novy Bor (m/3) 2013, continued 16...Bxe5 17.Rxe5 Qf6 ( *17...c6!?* 1.06/22 17...Bd7 0.64 Bluebaum,M-Nihal,S/Sharjah 2017.; *17...Bd7* is Gustafsson's recommendation.) 18.h4!? gxh4 19.Bf4 Qg6 20.Qh3 Rg8! And now ...Qg4 would win. 21.Re3! A very good multipurpose move as White not only vacates the e5-square for the bishop but prepares a doubling of his major pieces along the ...h-file! White's initiative looks threatening but perhaps Black can still hold the balance with precise defence. h6 22.Qh2 b5 23.Bf1 Kh7 24.Qxh4 e5 25.dxe5 Qe6 26.Bd3 Rg6 27.Rg3 Rxg3 28.fxg3 Bb7 29.Bc2 Rf8 30.g4 Qg6 31.e6 Qxe6 32.Bxf5+ Rxf5 33.gxf5 Qxf5 34.Qxh6+ Kg8 35.Qg5+ Qxg5 Chapter-Games Chapter 8 Game 1 ]

**14...c5** This typical pawn advance is not so effective here. Black's main problem (his Q-side development) does not seem to be solved like that. **15.Bf4 cxd4 16.Rad1!** White quickly brings all his pieces in action. Black is under pressure though his position remains solid, Ding Liren - Meier/St.Louis 2012.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.01 (flawless) /Black=0.02 (flawless)

**D39**
☐ **Bocharov,Dmitry** **2452**
■ **Ovod,Evgenija** **2355**
Petrov Memorial (4) 15.02.2002
*[R.Scherbakov]*

One drawback of the line with Ra1-b1 is that in most cases Black can simplify into worse endgames, which do not seem to be winning for White. Thus the combination of the moves Qb3-a3 and Rf1-d1 seems to be the more promising. Black can never capture the White c-pawn so White can probably maintain a typical small advantage, as can be seen in this game.Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'One drawback of the line with Ra1-b1 is that in most cases Black can simplify into worse endgames, which do not seem to be winning for White. Thus the combination of the moves Qb3-a3 and Rf1-d1 seems to be the more promising. Black can never capture the White c-pawn so White can probably maintain a typical small advantage, as can be seen in this game.' **1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qb3 a6 13.Be2 Nc6 14.0-0 Qc7 15.Qa3 Rc8 16.Rfd1** This seems to be the most promising way - White first of all places his rook on the d-file. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This seems to be the most promising way - White first of all places his rook on the d-file.' **16...Na5** Black also tried some other options. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'while'

[ 16...h5?! , as was played in the game Svetushkin - S.Marjanovic, Aghia Pelagia 2004, seems dubious: Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', as was played in the game Svetushkin - S.Marjanovic, Aghia Pelagia 2004, seems dubious:' 17.Rd2 Ne5 18.Rad1 Qxc3? and here 19.Nb3! with idea 20. Rxd7! Nxd7 21. Rc1 was winning instantly: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with idea 20. Rxd7! Nxd7 21. Rc1 was winning instantly:' Qc7 20.f4+- ]

[ 16...Rg8!? 17.Rab1 Rg5!?⩲ deserves attention, M.Berg - Morawietz, Porz 1990. ]

[while 16...Ne5 17.c4 *( 17.Rab1!? )* 17...Qc5 18.Qb3⩲ gave White a typical small advantage in the game Tregubov - Hracek, Selfoss 2002. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'gave White a typical small advantage in the game Tregubov - Hracek, Selfoss 2002.' ]

**17.c4!?**

[ 17.Rab1 is a transposition to the games Burgess - Law/BCF-chT Birmingham 1999 and Shulman - Yakovich/New York 1998 - it seems to be less promising for White to put his rook on the b-file in such situation. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'is a transposition to the games Burgess - Law/BCF-chT Birmingham 1999 and Shulman - Yakovich/New York 1998 - it seems to be less promising for White to put his rook on the b-file in such situation.' ]

**17...Qc5** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Of course, the c4-pawn was untouchable:'

[ Of course, the c4-pawn was untouchable: 17...Nxc4?? 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Rac1+- and the Black queen is trapped ]

[ 17...Rg8!? still deserved attention, getting the K-side rook into play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'still deserved attention, getting the K-side rook into play.' ]

**18.Qc3**

[ 18.Qg3!? is also interesting. In the game Khenkin - Akopian, Minsk 1990 Black played unsuccessfully: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'is also interesting. In the game Khenkin - Akopian, Minsk 1990 Black played unsuccessfully:' Nc6? Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and' *(both 18...Ke7!? 19.Nb3 Nxb3 20.axb3⩲;* and *18...Qe5!?* led to normal play with the somewhat better chances for White Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'led to normal play with the somewhat better chances for White'*)* 19.Nb3 Qf8!? Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'there were no choice:' *( there were no choice: 19...Qe5? 20.f4 Qc7 21.Qh4+-;*

*19...Qg5? 20.Qd6 Ne5 21.g3+- )* 20.Rd2 Rg8 21.Qe3 Nb8 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and' *( both 21...Qg7 22.g3;* and *21...Ne5 22.f4* were unsatisfactory for Black*)* 22.Rb1 Bc6 23.Na5 Qg7 24.g3+- and Black has found himself in big trouble. ]

**18...Rg8?!** This is dubious. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The principled'

[The principled 18...Nxc4! should have been played:

**A)** 19.Rab1 did not promise much:

**A1)** 19...b5 20.Bxc4 Qxc4 *( 20...bxc4 21.Rb7↑ )* 21.Qf3 Ke7 22.Qa3+ Qc5 23.Qxa6 Rhd8 24.Nb3 Qe5 25.Qa7⩲;

**A2)** 19...Nd6 20.Qxc5 *( 20.Qd3 Qc3 21.Nxe6 Qxd3 22.Ng7+ Ke7 )* 20...Rxc5 21.Nb3 Rc6 22.Na5 Rc2 23.Nxb7 *( 23.Bxa6 bxa6 24.Rxd6 Bb5 25.a4 Bxa4 26.Rxa6 0-0= )* 23...Nxb7 24.Rxb7 Bc8= with an equal endgame;

**B)** 19.Rac1 b5 20.Bxc4 bxc4 *( 20...Qxc4? 21.Qd2+- )*

**B1)** 21.Nf3 e5 *( 21...Ke7 22.e5 fxe5 23.Nxe5↑ )* 22.Rd5 Qc7 23.Ra5 Be6 24.Rxa6 0-0= seemed fine for Black;

**B2)** 21.Nc2!? Qe5 22.Rd4⩲ with idea Nc2-e3 and White maintains the initiative but Black should not be too badly off. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with idea Nc2-e3 and White maintains the initiative but Black should not be too badly off.' ]

**19.g3 Nc6?!** This gives White a clear advantage. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'However, after'

[However, after 19...Nxc4 20.Bxc4 *( 20.Nb3!? )* 20...Qxc4 21.Qd2↑ Black's task was already not so easy. ]

**20.Nb3 Qe5 21.Qe3±** Black has just lost a very important asset which can compensate the damage to his K-side pawn structure - control over the c5-square and pressure on the c-file. It means White's advantage is beyond doubt. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Black has just lost a very important asset which can compensate the damage to his K-side pawn structure - control over the c5-square and pressure on the c-file. It means White's advantage is beyond doubt.' **21...f5?!** This is bad but Black already needed good advice. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This is bad but Black already needed good advice.' **22.Qd3?!**

[ 22.Nc5! was stronger: Rc7 23.f4 Qf6 and here White has many ways: 24.exf5!? Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or' *( or 24.e5 Qe7 25.Rd6 )* 24...Qxf5 25.Bd3 Qh5 26.Ne4 Ke7 27.Bf1+- and so on. ]

**22...Rd8 23.exf5 Qxf5 24.Qxf5 exf5 25.Nc5 Bc8 26.Bf3±** White has a clear advantage here but Black can at least be happy that his king is not under attack anymore. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White has a clear advantage here but Black can at least be happy that his king is not under attack anymore.' **26...Rg6 27.Kg2 Rxd1 28.Rxd1 Na5?!**

[ 28...b6!? was more tenacious. ]

**29.Bd5 Rb6 30.Nd3** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'White could think about the more accurate'

[ White could think about the more accurate 30.Rd2 , limiting Black's counter chances. Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', limiting Black's counter chances.' ]

**30...Be6 31.Re1 Kd7?** The blunder, which costs too much. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The blunder, which costs too much.'

[ 31...Kd8! should have been played, keeping reasonable chances to hold the position although White's advantage was still beyond doubt. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'should have been played, keeping reasonable chances to hold the position although White's advantage was still beyond doubt.' ]

**32.Nc5+ Ke7 33.Nxe6 fxe6 34.c5** The point - White not only wins the e6-pawn but also gets his rook into Black's camp. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The point - White not only wins the e6-pawn but also gets his rook into Black's camp.' **34...Rb5 35.Rxe6+ Kf8** Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Or'

[Or 35...Kd7 36.Rh6 ]

**36.Rf6+ Kg7 37.Rxf5 Rxc5 38.Rf7+ Kg6 39.Rd7+-** The rest is easy - Black loses one more pawn since White also threatens Be4-d5. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The rest is easy - Black loses one more pawn since White also threatens Be4-d5. ' **39...h5 40.Bxb7 Nxb7 41.Rxb7 Ra5 42.Rb2 h4 43.Re2 hxg3 44.hxg3 Ra3 45.Kh3 a5 46.f4 a4 47.Kg4 Kf6 48.f5 Rc3 49.Kf4 a3 50.Re6+ Kf7 51.Ra6 Rd3 52.g4 Rc3 53.Ra4 Kg8 54.Kg5 Rg3 55.f6 Kf8 56.Kf5 Rg2 57.Rxa3** and finally Black resigned.

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/4**

■ **7 e5 cxd4 8 Nxd4**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 10.10.2019

*[ChessPublishing.com]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4 (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

B) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+**

**9.bxc3 Qa5 10.exf6 Qxg5 11.fxg7 Qxg7** This line is known to be harmless for Black, but White is trying to give him problems from time to time. **12.Qd2** Recently this is the most popular continuation. White doesn't cover the 3rd rank, which might be used for rook's transfer to the opened g-file.

[The line 12.Qf3 Nd7 13.Bxc4 0-0 is good for Black:

**A)** In order to secure his bishop White also tried another retreat 14.Be2 but failed to achieve good prospects: Nc5 ( *14...Ne5 15.Qe3 Ng6!* is also acceptable for Black) 15.0-0 b6! 16.Rfe1 ( *16.Qxa8? Bb7* ) 16...Bb7 17.Qh3! Rad8 with a good play;

**B)** 14.Bb3

**B1)** 14...Qe5+!? deserves serious attention: 15.Ne2!? ( or *15.Kd2* -0.09/21 15.Ne2 0.28 *Qg5+ 16.Qe3 Qxe3+ 17.Kxe3 Nc5 18.Bc2 Bd7* with good endgame for Black) 15...Nc5 16.0-0 Bd7 17.Nd4! and White may still hope for some edge. Repels Bc6;

**B2)** 14...Nc5

**B2a)** 15.0-0 can be strongly met by b6!

**B2a1)** 16.Qxa8? -1.27/20 16.Qe3 0.14 Bb7 17.Qxf8+ -2.19/22 ( *17.Qxb7∓* -1.08/26 *Nxb7 18.Rfe1* ) 17...Kxf8-+ 18.f3 Qg5 19.Bc2 Against Nd3 Qe3+ 20.Rf2 -2.80/21 ( *20.Kh1* -1.98/20 was worth a try.) 20...Ba6∓ is clearly better for Black;

**B2a2)** 16.Rfe1 Bb7 17.Qh3 Kh8 ( *17...Nd3!?* is maybe even stronger; *17...Nd3!? 18.Re3 Nf4∓* ) 18.Re3 Wards off Nd3 Rg8 19.f3 -0.66/23 ( *19.Rg3=* 0.12/19 *Qf6 20.Bc2* ) 19...Qf6 -0.25/21 ( *19...Rad8∓* -0.66/23 *20.Bc2 Rd5* ) 20.Bc2= Rg7 and Black achieves the better chances;

**B2b)** 15.Bc2

**B2b1)** However, Black's position looks fine and it can probably be proved by the energetic 15...e5! 16.Nf5 -1.08/22 ( *16.Ne2=* -0.06/22 remains equal.) 16...e4!∓ 17.Nxg7! exf3 18.Nh5 Re8+! 19.Kf1 Re5∓ with superior play;

**B2b2)** Black should play 15...e5= -0.14/19 16.Ne2 Be6;

**B2b3)** This position arose in the game Kir.Georgiev - Perunovic/Vrnjacka Banja 2005 which continued by 15...Qe5+ 0.64/18 16.Kf1 -0.19/18 and here Black solved his opening problems with the typical ( *16.Ne2±* 0.64/18 ) 16...b6!= ]

**12...0-0** The position is equal.

[ 12...Nc6 0.55/21 12...0-0 0.06 is a rare but interesting continuation: 13.Nxc6 bxc6

**A)** the common 14.Bxc4 is well met by Qe5+! 15.Kf1! ( *15.Be2* -0.01/22 15.Kf1 0.42 *Ba6=* leads to an equal endgame )

**A1)** both 15...Qc5?! 16.Qf4! Rg8! 17.Rb1! Rg5 18.g4!

Wards off Rf5. Strongly threatening h4. a5?! 1.78/19 ( *18...Qe5= 0.20/21 19.Qf3 Qc5* ) 19.h4!+- Rg7 20.g5!±;

**A2)** and 15...0-0 1.18/22 15...Bb7 0.43 16.h4 Qc5 1.78/23 ( *16...Qf6± 1.15/21* ) 17.Be2 1.15/23 ( *17.Rh3+- 1.78/23 Qxc4+ 18.Kg1* ) 17...e5? 2.85/23 ( *17...Qe7± 1.15/23* is a better defense.) 18.Qg5++- Kh8 19.Qf6+ Kg8 20.h5 Intending h6 and mate. Re8? 6.24/20 ( *20...h6 2.79/20 21.Qxh6 e4* ) 21.h6+- Qf8 Against Qg7+ 22.Rh5+- have been unsatisfactory for Black;

**A3)** 15...Bb7!? 16.Rd1 0-0 with good play for Black;

**B)** 14.0-0-0!? 0-0 15.Bxc4 Here White cannot count on easy play against Black's king since his own monarch is also unsafe. The game V.Popov - Filippov/ECC Saint Vincent 2005 continued e5! 16.h4 h6 0.54/21 ( In case of *16...Bf5 17.Qg5!⩲* White could achieve small advantage in the endgame; *16...Bf5= 0.03/23* ) 17.Rhe1⩲

**B1)** 17...Bf5 18.Re3 Rab8 1.21/24 ( *18...Rfd8!⩲ 0.59/20 19.Qe2 Qf8* ) 19.Bb3⩲ couldn't completely solve Black's problems;

**B2)** 17...Bg4!? 18.f3 Bf5 and here White should have played 19.g4!? Bg6 1.40/18 ( *⌓19...Bh7 0.76/20* ) 20.g5⩲ 0.83/20 with somewhat better chances. ( White should try *20.h5! 1.40/18 Bh7 21.Qe3* )]

**13.Bxc4 Rd8** Threatens to win with ... Nc6!

[ 13...a6 0.46/19 13...Rd8 0.00 looks a bit slow but is perhaps still playable: 14.0-0 b5! ( in the game Topalov - Naiditsch/ Dortmund 2005 Black faced serious problems after the dubious *14...Rd8?! 1.14/22* 14...b5 0.26 *15.Qf4!±* ) 15.Bb3 b4 0.56/21 ( *15...Bb7!= -0.01/23 16.f3 Nc6* ) 16.Rac1 0.20/23 ( *16.Rfd1⩲ 0.56/21* ) 16...Rd8 And now ...Bb7 would win. 17.Qe3 Bb7 with acceptable play. Prevents Qe4 ]

**14.Qe3**

[ 14.Qf4 is well met by Nc6! ]

**14...Bd7! 15.0-0**

[ 15.0-0-0!? Nc6 16.Bb3 Be8 17.Nxc6 Bxc6 18.h4!? Carlsen,M-Aronian,L/Zagreb CRO 2019. ]

**15...Nc6 16.Nf3! Ne7 17.Ne5 Ng6**

[ 17...Bc6 is less precise: 18.g3!? Nd5 ( *18...Bd5!? 19.Bb3⩲* ) 19.Bxd5! Rxd5 20.Rfe1 Rad8 21.Qf4⩲ and White's strong knight is dominating the Black bishop although it was still not easy to create any real threats. ]

**18.f4 Rac8!?**

[ 18...Nxe5 19.fxe5 Bc6 Dodges Rf3 20.g3 has been common for years. White is hoping to exploit a weakened position of Black's king and awkward position of Black's queen but a lack of resources as well as activity of Black's remaining pieces makes this task too difficult. Yet, White can still hope for a small edge but even if achieved it usually does not promise him real winning chances. Rd7

**A)** In the game Onischuk - Jakovenko/Foros 2007 White tried 21.Rf6 -0.01/22 21.Rf4 0.35 He wants to restrict Black's queen, however, the doubled rooks on the d-file give Black sufficient counter chances. Rad8 22.Be2 Rd2! (In case of *22...Kh8* 0.97/21 22...Rd2 -0.09 *23.Raf1!* White kept Black's major pieces restricted *)*

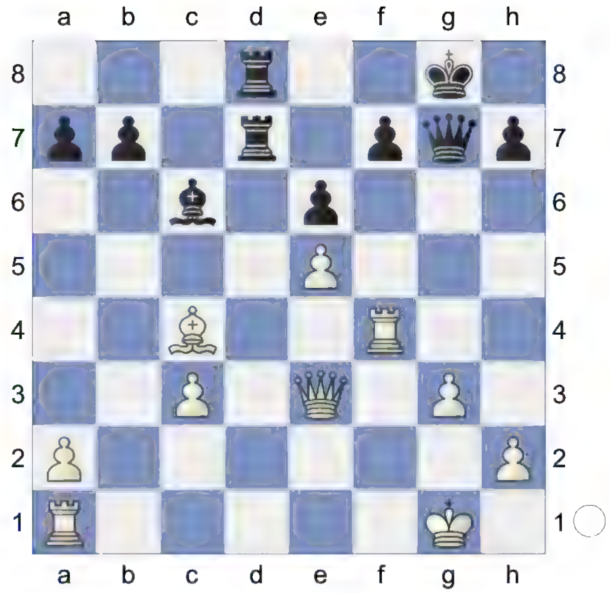
**A1)** 23.Raf1 could have been met with R8d3! 24.Qxd3 Rxd3 25.Bxd3 Black must now prevent Rxf7. Qg5 0.00/38 with sufficient counterplay against weakened opponent's king, for example, *( 25...Be8!∓* -0.45/27 *26.a4 a6 )* 26.Bxh7+!= Kh8! *( 26...Kxh7??* 5.88/20 26...Kh8 0.00 *27.Rxf7+ Kg8 28.Rf8+ Kg7 29.R1f7+ Kh6 30.Rh8+ Kg6 31.Rg8++- )* 27.Rxf7 aiming for Rf8+. Qe3+ 28.R1f2 Qe1+ 29.Rf1 Qe3+= with repetition of moves;

**A2)** 23.Rf4!? Kh8 24.Rd4 *( 24.Rg4 Qf8* was okay for Black; *24.Rg4!? Qf8□ 25.a4= )* 24...R2xd4 25.cxd4 f5 26.exf6 Qxf6 and Black has eventually equalised without serious problems.;

**B)** 21.Be2!? is worthy of consideration: Kh8 22.Rad1 Rad8 0.75/22 *( 22...Rxd1!?; 22...Rxd1±* 0.37/25 *23.Rxd1 f6 )* 23.Rd4 with a small advantage.;

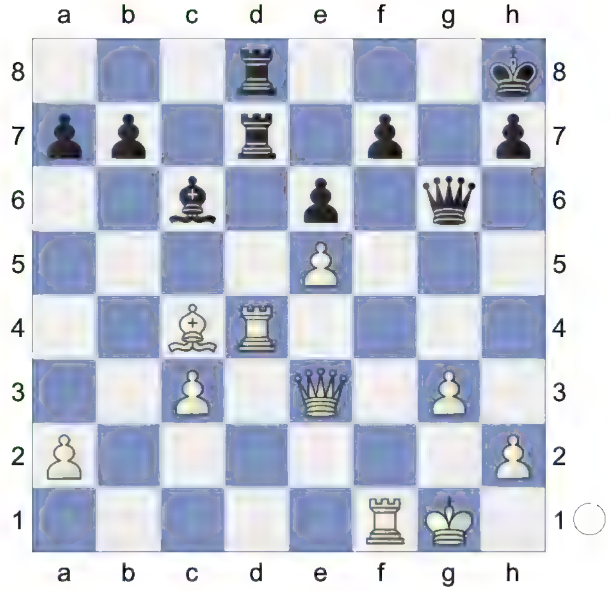
**C)** 21.Rf4 Kh8 *(* The careless *21...Rad8?* 0.80/22 21...Kh8 0.36

(Diagram)



is strongly met by *22.Be2!±* followed by Rf4-g4.*)* 22.Raf1 Rad8 0.70/21 This position arose in the game Shulman - Van Wely/ Foxwoods 2006. It seems that White should have preferred *( 22...Qh6=* 0.24/25 deserves consideration. *)* 23.Rd4!±

**C1)** 23...Qg6 1.08/23 23...b5 0.55



24.Rd6!? 0.00/25 *(* White has to play *24.Bd3!±* 1.08/23 *Qh5 25.Be2 )*;

**C2)** 23...Rxd4 24.cxd4± , still hoping to maintain a slight edge. ]

**19.Be2 Bc6** This approach is recently becoming more popular. Dodges Rf3

[ Black is still not in a hurry to capture on e5, which would be similar to the above mentioned line: 19...Nxe5 20.fxe5 Bc6 Inhibits Rf3. 21.g3 0.04/23 in which, as a rule, he doubles his rooks along the d-file instead. ( *21.Bf3!±* 0.46/23 )]

**20.Bf3**

[ 20.g3 is a natural and perhaps the more promising alternative: Rd5 ( *20...Ba4* looks a bit strange, especially in two steps but it may have its points: *21.Rab1 b6 22.Rb4 Bc2 23.Rd4* though White might be slightly better thanks to Black's vulnerable king and passive queen) 21.c4 ( *21.Nxc6 Rxc6 22.Qxa7 Qxc3* ) 21...Ra5 22.Nxc6 Rxc6 23.Qd2 Qd8+ is the strong threat. ( or *23.Rab1 b6* ) 23...Rac5 ( *23...b6!? 24.Qd7 Rcc5!* ) 24.Rab1 ( *24.Rad1!?* ) 24...b6 25.Rb3 ( *25.Rb5 Qf6* Gavrilov-Turov, Jyvaskyla 2010) 25...Rc8 26.Ra3 R5c7 27.Rd3 Qf8 and Black is solid enough. ]

**20...Bd5** Black is okay, Ivanchuk - Grischuk/World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (6.2) 2011. Not much happened in this game.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

**D39**

**☐ Vienna Variation/3**

**■ 7 e5 cxd4 8 Qa4**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 19.12.2018

*[ChessPublishing.com,MH]*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.e5 cxd4 8.Qa4+** This is an old main line, which leads to a very sharp and complicated play. It has been thoroughly tested in practice but after Black found good counter chances it almost disappeared for years. However, recently White has found some ideas... **8...Nc6 9.0-0-0 Bd7**

[ 9...h6 is a rare continuation, which is not as dubious as it may appear: 10.exf6 hxg5 11.fxg7 Rg8 12.Nxd4 ( *12.Ne4* can be well met by *d3! 13.Bxd3 cxd3 14.Rxd3 Qe7! 15.Ne5 f5* ) 12...Bxc3! ( An immediate *12...Bd7?* is known to be bad for Black: *13.Ne4! Qe7 14.Nc2 f5 15.Nxb4 fxe4 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Qxc4 Rc8 18.Kb1 Kf7 19.Be2* with a big advantage for White) 13.bxc3 ( *13.Nxc6?!* should be met by *Bd7! 14.bxc3 Qc7 15.Qxc4 Bxc6* with acceptable play for Black) 13...Qa5! (In case of *13...Bd7* White grabs initiative by *14.Nb5↑* )

**A)** 14.Qxc4 promises some edge for White: Bd7 15.Nb5 Rxg7 16.Nd6+ ( *16.Qc5 0-0-0* is okay for Black) 16...Ke7 ( *16...Kf8 17.Nxb7 Qa3+ 18.Kb1 Qe7 19.Nc5 Rb8+ 20.Ka1 Be8 21.h4±* ) 17.Nxb7 Qa3+ 18.Kc2 ( *18.Kb1?? Rb8-+* ) 18...Ne5 19.Qc5+ Qxc5 20.Nxc5 but Black keeps good compensation for the pawn after Bc6 21.Re1!? ( *21.h3 Rh8* ) 21...f6 22.f3 Rc8≌;

**B)** The tempting blow 14.Nxc6?! actually gives nothing: Qxc3+ (Surely not *14...Qxa4?? 15.Rd8#* mate! ) 15.Kb1 bxc6 16.Qxc6+ Ke7 17.Qd6+ Kf6 and White does not have more than a draw, see the game Malakhatko - Perez Felipe/

La Laguna, 2008 for details.;

**C)** 14.Qxa5!? Perhaps the most promising continuation. 14...Nxa5 15.h4 g4 ( *15...gxh4!? 16.Rxh4 Ke7 17.Rh8? Bd7; 15...Rxg7? 16.hxg5 Rxg5 17.Rh8+* ) 16.h5 Rxg7 17.h6 Rh7 18.Be2± with advantage in the endgame. ]

**10.Ne4 Be7**

[ 10...Nxe4?! is a very unexpected idea in a well-known position. Black's queen sacrifice may come as a surprise to his opponent but objectively White should be able to secure the better chances with precise play. 11.Bxd8 Rxd8 12.Nxd4 Bd2+! The best chance. ( *12...Nxf2 13.Nxc6 Nxd1 14.Qxb4 Bxc6 15.Bxc4 Nf2 16.Rf1 Nd3+ 17.Bxd3 Rxd3* does not solve the problems, as was tested in a few games ) 13.Rxd2

**A)** In case of 13...Nxd4 White can continue 14.Qxc4 ( *14.Qxa7!?* deserves attention: *Nc6 15.Qe3 Nxd2 16.Kxd2* etc. ) 14...Nxd2 15.Qxd4 Nxf1 16.Qb4! Nxh2 17.Rxh2± , keeping winning chances;

**B)** 13...Nxd2

**B1)** 14.Nb5? failed to 0-0! (but not *14...Nxf1?? 15.Qa3!* ) 15.Kxd2 Nxe5 and Black wins the knight on b5 after the forthcoming ...a7-a6;

**B2)** 14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Qa3 Nxf1 16.Rxf1 The game Ivanchuk - Nisipeanu/Foros 2007 continued Rd3 17.Qb4! a5 18.Qxc4 Rd5 19.Rd1 0-0 20.Rxd5 Bxd5 21.Qa4 Bxg2 22.Qxa5 and White has managed to get a pawn majority on the Q-side, which gives him reasonable winning chances, although it may take a long time. ]

**11.exf6 gxf6 12.Bh4 Rc8**

[ 12...Nb4? can be strongly met by 13.Qxb4! Bxb4 14.Nxf6+ Kf8 15.Rxd4 Qa5 ( *15...Be7 16.Ne5 Ba4 17.Rxd8+ Rxd8 18.Be2±* ) 16.Nxd7+ Ke8 17.Nf6+ Kf8 18.Ne5 ( or *18.Bxc4 Rc8 19.Kb1 h5 20.Rhd1 Be7 21.Nd7+ Ke8 22.Bg3±* ) 18...h5 19.Bxc4 and Black's extra queen cannot fight against White's superior forces: Kg7 20.Nfd7 Rhc8 21.Kb1 b5 22.Bf6+ Kg8 23.Rh4 Be7 24.Bxe7 Rxc4 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Rxh5 with inevitable checkmate ]

[ 12...Ne5? is also unsatisfactory for Black due to a wonderful 13.Qa3!!

**A)** or 13...Bxa3 14.Nxf6+ Kf8 15.Nxe5 Qa5 16.Nfxd7+ Ke8 17.Nxc4 Rc8 ( *17...Qc7 18.Nf6+ Kf8 19.Bg3* ) 18.Kb1±;

**B)** 13...0-0 14.Qxe7! Qxe7 15.Nxe5 Ba4 16.Rxd4! and White is overwhelming: Qb4 17.Nxf6+ Kh8 18.Bxc4 Qc5 19.Re4 followed by Nf6-d7 with decisive attack. ]

[ 12...b5?! is dubious: 13.Qxb5 e5 and here White can secure a big advantage by 14.Qd5! ( *14.Qxc4 Rc8 15.Kb1 0-0⇄* gives Black good counter chances) 14...Nb4 15.Nxf6+! Bxf6 16.Bxf6! Nxd5 17.Bxd8 Rxd8 18.Nxe5± and White will soon gets a healthy extra pawn in the endgame ]

[ 12...Na5?! is bad for Black: 13.Qc2 e5 14.Nxd4! exd4 15.Rxd4

**A)** 15...Nc6 16.Rd6 Bxd6 17.Nxf6+ Kf8

**A1)** but not 18.Nxh7+?? Rxh7 19.Bxd8 Rxd8 20.Qxh7 Bf4+ 21.Kb1? ( *21.Kc2 Bf5+! 22.Qxf5*

*Nd4+-+ )* 21...Bf5+! 22.Qxf5 Rd1+ 23.Kc2 Rc1# mate!;

**A2)** 18.Qd2!+- Be6 19.Qh6+ Ke7 20.Ne4+ Ke8 21.Bxd8+-;

**B)** 15...Rc8 16.Qc3 Rc6 17.Be2 Qb6 18.Rd5 Re6 19.Bg4! Rxe4 20.Bxd7+ Kf8 21.Bg5!+-;

**C)** 15...Qb6 16.Rd6! Qb4 17.a3 Qa4 18.Nxf6+! Bxf6 19.Bxf6 Qxc2+ 20.Kxc2 Rg8 21.g3± with a clear advantage in the endgame ]

[ Another side line, which deserves more attention, seems to be 12...e5!? 13.Bxc4

**A)** or 13...0-0 14.Kb1 Rc8 15.Rc1 *( 15.Rhe1! )* 15...Nb4 with compensation for the piece but perhaps White can somehow prove the better chances: *( 15...f5? 16.Nc5* wins, Ivanchuk,V-Palac,M/ Zagreb CRO 2018.*)* 16.Nxf6+!? *( 16.Qd1 b5 17.Bb3 Rxc1+ 18.Qxc1 Bf5 19.Nfd2 a5 20.a3 a4 21.Bc2 Nd5=∞* this line certainly requires more analysis*)* 16...Bxf6 17.Bxf6! Bxa4 18.Bxd8 Rfxd8 19.Nxe5 Be8 *( 19...Kg7!∞ )* 20.a3 Nc6 21.Rhe1⩲ with a small advantage.;

**B)** 13...a6!? 14.Qb3 Na5!?

**B1)** 15.Bxf7+?? fails to Kf8 16.Qd3 *( 16.Qd5 Rc8+ 17.Kb1 Bc6 18.Qxd8+ Rxd8-+ )* 16...Bb5 17.Qd2 Kxf7-+ with a huge advantage for Black;

**B2)** 15.Nxf6+!

**B2a)** 15...Kf8?! is dubious: 16.Nxd7+ Qxd7 and here in the game Sanikidze - Landa/ Haguenau 2013 it seemed more promising to continue 17.Qd3! Nxc4 *( 17...Rc8? fails to 18.Nxe5+- )* 18.Bxe7+! Kxe7 *( 18...Qxe7? 19.Qxc4+- )* 19.b3 Rac8 20.bxc4 Rxc4+ 21.Kd2 Qa4 22.Qe4± with tangible advantage;

**B2b)** 15...Bxf6! 16.Bxf7+ Kf8 17.Qa3+! *( 17.Qb4+ Qe7! 18.Qxa5 Bxh4∞ )* 17...Kg7! *( 17...Kxf7? 18.Nxe5+! Ke8 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Rhe1+-; 17...Qe7?? 18.Bxf6+-; 17...Be7 18.Bxe7+ Qxe7 19.Nxe5! Rc8+ 20.Kd2!? Qxa3 21.bxa3 Kg7 22.f4⩲/± )* 18.Bxf6+ Qxf6 19.Qxa5 Bf5! 20.Bb3 Rac8+ 21.Kd2 e4 22.Nxd4! *( 22.Qe5 exf3 23.Qxf6+ Kxf6 24.gxf3 Ke5=∞* Δ ...Ke5-f4 *)* 22...Rhd8 23.Ke1 Rxd4 24.Rxd4 Qxd4 25.Qd2 Qf6⩲ and, since White has already castled once, Black keeps reasonable compensation for the pawn although White's chances still seem preferable. ]

[ 12...a6!? is a rare option, which has recently become popular. At the moment White fails to show any advantage: 13.Qxc4 e5 14.Nxe5! ( A simple development could only give Black a time to seize initiative, for example, *14.Bd3? Be6*↑ and so on while White's pieces are still doing nothing *)* 14...Nxe5 15.Qxd4

**A)** 15...Qc7+!? is also interesting: 16.Kb1 (after *16.Qc3 Rc8 17.Qxc7 Rxc7+ 18.Kb1 Bf5 19.f3 0-0 20.Be2 Rfc8* Black was fine in the endgame, Riazantsev - Sorokin/ Salekhard 2006 *)*

**A1)** 16...Rc8? fails to 17.Bxa6!

*( 17.Be2 Bf5 18.Ka1⩲ )* 17...Bf5 *( 17...bxa6 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bxf6+- )* 18.Bb5+ Kf8 19.Ka1⩲;

**A2)** while 16...Bf5 does not fully equalise: 17.Be2 Qc6 18.f3⩲ 0-0 19.Qe3 Rac8 20.Ka1⩲ with a small advantage for White.;

**A3)** 16...0-0-0!? 17.Rc1 Bc6 18.Qe3 The game Lysyj - Wojtaszek/Stockholm 2010 continued f5 19.Bxe7 Qxe7 20.Nc5 Kb8 and after 21.Bxa6!? This tempting blow looks strong but Black can defend. *( 21.Qf4 Ka8* was okay for Black; but perhaps *21.Be2!?* would have still promised the better chances for White*)* 21...bxa6 22.Rhe1 Be4+! 23.Nxe4 fxe4 24.Qxe4 Rhe8 25.Re3 Qd7 26.Rb3+ Ka7 27.Qe3+ Ka8 28.Qe4+ the game ended with repetition of moves.;

**B)** 15...Rc8+ 16.Kb1

**B1)** A common 16...0-0 still seems more reliable though not fully equalising: 17.Be2 Bf5 18.Qe3! *( 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.f3 Kg7* looks acceptable for Black*)* 18...Qc7 19.Ka1! with a small advantage for White;

**B2)** 16...Bf5!? An interesting continuation. 17.Qa4+ Bd7 *( 17...Nd7?* is senseless as White could simply continue his development by *18.Bd3⩲ )* 18.Qb3 *( 18.Qd4 Bf5* would be a repetition of moves*)* The game Kunin - Khenkin/EU-chT Budva 2009, continued 18...Qc7! 19.Bd3 Be6! 20.Qa4+ and here the rather unexpected retreat Kf8! would have given Black reasonable chances to hold balance. *(* in the just mentioned game White seized a strong initiative after *20...b5? 21.Qd4↑ )* 21.Rc1 Qb6! 22.Rxc8+ Bxc8 23.Bc2 Bd7 *( 23...Rg8∞ )* 24.Qb3 Qxb3 25.Bxb3 Bc6∞ with a good ending for Black. ]

[ 12...0-0 13.Bxc4 Rc8 14.Kb1 e5 transposes to 12...e5, above. ]

**13.Kb1**

[The rather unexpected 13.Bxf6 should not be harmful for Black: Bxf6 14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Nxc8 Qxc8 16.Qxc4

**A)** an immediate 16...e5!? is maybe even stronger: 17.Kb1 *( 17.Bd3 Be6 )* 17...Bf5+ *( 17...Be6!? )* 18.Ka1 and here Black should have chosen a restrained Kg7 ( after a hasty *18...e4?! 19.Nd2 Kg7 20.g4! Bg6 21.Bg2* White obtained good counter chances, Gormally - Wells, Hereford 2006*)* 19.Nd2 *( 19.g4 Be6! 20.Qa4 Rd8⩱ )* 19...Re8 with powerful play;

**B)** 16...Kg7 17.Kb1 *( 17.Bd3 Nb4!? )* 17...e5 18.Bd3 Be6 19.Qa4 a6!? *( 19...Bf5* is also good*)* 20.Rc1 Bd5 *( 20...Bf5!? )* 21.Nd2 Bg5 and White has to fight for equality. ]

**13...Na5** Here Black also has some other options.

[After 13...b5? 14.Qxb5 Black fails to prove compensation for material losses:

**A)** or 14...c3 15.Nxd4 Qc7 *( 15...Nxd4 16.Rxd4 c2+*

*17.Kc1+-; 15...a6 16.Qb3! Na5 17.Qc2 cxb2 18.Qxb2+- )* 16.Qc4+-;

**B)** 14...Ne5 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qxe5 Bxe5 17.Bxd8+-;

**C)** 14...e5 15.Bxc4 Rb8 16.Qd5 0-0 17.Bxf6 Qb6 18.b3 Be6 19.Bxe7! Bxd5 20.Nf6+ Kg7 21.Nxd5+- ]

[ 13...e5 is not so easy to refute: 14.Bxc4 a6 15.Qb3 Na5 (the position without inclusion of moves is considered in the line 12. .. e5!?) 16.Nxf6+!? (after *16.Bxf7+ Kf8 17.Qd3 Bb5 18.Qd2 Kxf7 19.Qh6=∞* White's initiative is probably sufficient only for some perpetual) 16...Bxf6 17.Bxf7+ Kf8 18.Qa3+ Be7 19.Bxe7+ Qxe7 20.Qxa5 Rc5 21.Qd2 Bf5+ 22.Ka1 Kxf7 23.Rhe1⩲ and White's chances look preferable thanks to Black's vulnerable king ]

[ 13...a6 14.Qxc4 e5 is a transposition to 12. ..a6 after

**A)** 15.Bxf6?! can be strongly met by Bf5! (but not *15...Be6? 16.Bxe7! Qxe7 17.Qc5!? Bxa2+ 18.Ka1! Qxc5 19.Nxc5 Nb4 20.Rc1 0-0 21.Nxe5 b6 22.Ncd3+- )*;

**B)** while 15.a3?! is slow: Be6 16.Qa4 and here Black can secure the better chances by Qd5! 17.Nxf6+! *( 17.Nc3 Qb3!∓ )* 17...Bxf6 18.Bc4!

**B1)** 18...Qe4+ 19.Bd3 Qf4 20.Bg3 Qh6 21.Rde1=∞;

**B2)** 18...Qxc4 19.Qxc4 Bxc4 20.Bxf6 Rg8 21.Nxe5 Nxe5 22.Rhe1!? *( 22.Bxe5 d3⩱ )* 22...Be6 23.Bxe5 Rxg2 24.Rxd4 Rxf2⩱;

**B3)** 18...Bf5+!? The most ambitious though a risky choice. 19.Ka1 Qd6 20.Bxf6 Qxf6 21.Nxe5! (otherwise White does not get sufficient compensation for the pawn) b5 22.Bxf7+ Kf8 23.Qxa6 Qxe5 24.Rhe1 Qf6 25.Bd5 Kg7 26.g4 Bd7 *( 26...Bxg4?! 27.Rg1↑ )* 27.g5 Qd6 28.Rxd4 Rhe8 and Black consolidates his position and maintains the advantage.;

**C)** 15.Nxe5! Nxe5 16.Qxd4 and so on. ]

**14.Qc2 e5 15.Nxd4!** Otherwise White's pieces are too restricted. **15...exd4 16.Rxd4 Qb6** A very important position is reached. White has tried a number of possibilities. **17.Rd5!?** A fresh idea, which recently caused some headache for Black.

[ 17.Rxd7 -0.29/18 17.Rd6 0.24 Kxd7 18.Be2 is known to be fine for Black:

**A)** 18...Ke8 19.Qc3 -0.81/20 *( 19.Bg4!= -0.14/21 Rd8 20.Qc3 )* 19...Rc6 seems playable as well;

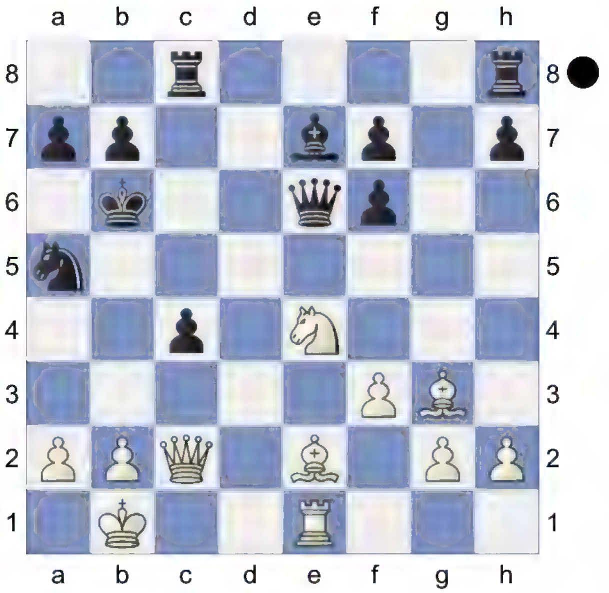
**B)** 18...Qe6!? Against Bg4 19.Re1 -0.46/20 *( 19.Rd1+= 0.25/19 Ke8 20.Bxf6 )* 19...Kc7⩱ ...Kb8 would now be deadly. 20.Bg3+ Kb6 And now ...Bb4 would win. 21.f3 -1.12/19 *( 21.f4⩱* -0.57/19 *)*

(Diagram)

21...Ka6!⩱ and White has to work hard to prove compensation for the exchange ]

[ 17.Rd6 used to be the most popular option: Rc6 (surely not *17...Bxd6? 18.Nxf6++- )*

**A)** 18.Bxf6 is worse: Rxd6 19.Bxh8 *( 19.Nxd6+?* is losing to: *Qxd6 20.Bxh8 Bf5!-+ 21.Qxf5*



*Qd1# )* 19...Bf5 20.Be2 Re6 21.Bf3 and here

**A1)** 21...Kf8 22.g4 -1.04/22 (White should try *22.Rd1-+* -1.69/21 *)* 22...Bg6∓ aiming for ... Bf6! 23.Bg2 is very unclear;

**A2)** while 21...Nc6?! 22.Nd6+ Rxd6 23.Qxf5± gives White a clear advantage;

**A3)** 21...Bg6! 22.Bc3 Nc6 23.Re1 Nb4 24.Qa4+ Kf8! 25.Re2 -1.85/19 ( *25.Ka1∓* -1.11/19 is a better defense.*)* 25...f5? 0.00/22 ( *25...Nd5-+* -1.85/19 *26.Qxc4 Nxc3+ 27.Qxc3 Bf6 )* 26.Nc5!= Bxc5 27.Rxe6 f4+! with sufficient counterplay;

**B)** 18.Rxc6 Qxc6 19.Be2 f5! *( 19...0-0 20.g4!⩲* Prevents Bf5.*)* 20.Bxe7 Qxe4 21.Bf6 *( 21.Bb4* 0.06/24 21.Bf6 0.42 *Nc6 22.Bc3 Rg8* is okay for Black*)* 21...Rg8 22.Re1 Qxc2+ 23.Kxc2 Be6 24.Rd1 Nc6! 25.Bf3 Bd7 1.16/21 *( 25...Nb4+⩲* 0.32/25 *26.Kb1 Nd3 )* 26.Kc3 0.57/20 *( 26.Rd6±* 1.16/21 *)* 26...Rg6⩲ 27.Rd6!⩲ and White gets somewhat better chances in the endgame, which is likely to be drawish. ]

[ Another well-known option is 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Qe4+ Kf8 19.Bxf6 Qxf6 20.Rxd7 Re8 does not promise much for White:

**A)** or 21.Qc2 Qg6 *( 21...Re1+!? 22.Rd1 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 Kg7 24.Qg4+ Qg6+ 25.Qxg6+ hxg6= )* 22.Qxg6 Re1+ 23.Kc2 hxg6= and Black almost equalised;

**B)** 21.Qd4 Re1+ 22.Kc2 Qxd4 23.Rxd4 Ke7⩲ with slightly worse but quite playable endgame, in which Black does not face serious problems in practice. ]

[ 17.Rd2!? looks harmless but Black should defend accurately: Bf5 18.Nd6+! ( This is forced as an attempt to keep things complicated would be harmful only for White: *18.g4? Bxe4 19.Qxe4 0-0! 20.Qxe7 c3* etc. *)* 18...Qxd6! 19.Qxf5 Rc5! 20.Rxd6 Rxf5 21.Rd1=∞ with good compensation for the pawn, Riazantsev,A-Zhu,C/Biel 2009. ]

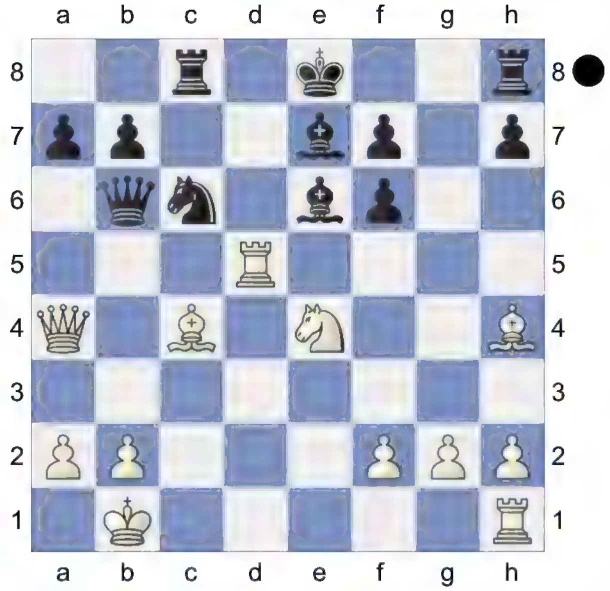
**17...Be6 18.Qa4+** -0.46/21

[White has also tried 18.Rh5!? Hoping for Qc3! Bg4 19.Qa4+! Nc6 20.Rb5! and here Black has to play Qa6! *(* after in the game Riazantsev - Jakovenko, Moscow 2006 Black faced problems after *20...Qd4?!* 0.65/20 20...Qa6 0.01 *21.f3!* Threatens to win with Bf2! *Be6 22.Bf2 Qd7 23.Bxc4 Bxc4 24.Qxc4 0-0 25.Bh4± )* 21.Qxa6 bxa6 22.Rb7 Bf5 23.f3! Rg8! , transposing to main line. ]

[ 18.Rh5= 0.00/23 was preferrable. Bg4 19.Qa4+ Nc6 20.Rb5 ]

**18...Nc6∓ 19.Rb5**

[ 19.Bxc4



can be well met by Qb4! Repels Nd6+ 20.Qxb4 Nxb4 21.Bb5+ Kf8 22.Rd2 Bxa2+ 23.Ka1

**A)** 23...Kg7∓ -0.70/24 24.Rd7 Rhe8 -0.04/22 ( Black should play *24...Bd8!∓* -0.64/23 *25.Rd2 f5* );

**B)** 23...Kg7∓ -0.66/23 24.Rd7 Bd8;

**C)** 23...Be6 -0.12/20 Against Rd7 24.Nxf6= Kg7 25.Nh5+ Kf8 26.Nf6 Kg7 27.Nh5+ with a repetition of moves. ]

**19...Qa6! 20.Qxa6 bxa6 21.Rb7 Bf5 22.f3! Rg8!** Black gets his K-side rook into play as quickly as possible.

[ 22...Bc5 0.76/25 22...Rg8 -0.07 22... Rg8 -0.01

**A)** 23.Bxc4 -0.44/18 23.Bxf6 0.75 23.Bxf6 0.65 is also worth considering: Na5! 24.Bxf6 Nxc4 0.43/25 ( *24...0-0!∓* -0.34/25 *25.Bxa6 Nxb7 26.Bxb7 Rc7;* Better is *24...0-0!∓* -0.48/24 *25.Bxa6 Nxb7 26.Bxb7 Rc7* ) 25.Bxh8± Black must now prevent Re1. Re1 is the strong threat. Na5! 26.Rb3! Nxb3 27.axb3 and Black has to do a good work to get half a point;

**B)** 23.Bxf6!? 0-0!± is worse for Black. ]

[After 22...0-0?! Black also faces problems: 23.Bxc4 Na5 24.Rxe7 Nxc4 25.Bxf6± ]

**23.Bg3**

[ 23.Bxc4? -1.77/24 23.h3 0.00 Na5 ( *23...Rxg2?* 0.27/22 23...Na5 -1.51 *24.Bxa6=* ) 24.Rxe7+ ( *24.Rxa7?* -3.93/21 24.Rxe7+ -1.52 *Nxc4 25.g3 Bc5-+* ) 24...Kxe7 25.Bxf6+ Kf8∓ ]

[ 23.Bxc4 Na5 ( *23...Rxg2 24.Bxa6 Kf8 25.Rxe7=* Discovered Attack) 24.Rxe7+ ( *24.Rxa7? Nxc4 25.g3 Bc5-+* ) 24...Kxe7 25.Bxa6 Rc6-+ ]

**23...Rg5!? 24.a4**

[Much worse is 24.Bxc4 -0.62/24 24.Be2 -0.06 Na5 25.Bxa6 -1.54/21 ( *25.Rxe7+ Kxe7 26.Bxa6 Bxe4+ 27.fxe4 Rc6=; ⌓25.Rxe7+* -0.81/23 *Kxe7 26.Bxa6* ) 25...Nxb7∓ 26.Bxb7 Rd8∓ ]

[Don't play 24.Bxc4 Na5 25.Rxe7+ Kxe7 26.Bxa6 Rc6∓ ]

**24...Nd4 25.Rb8 Bxe4+ 26.fxe4 Rgc5** Black has obtained good play in the ending, Khmelniker - Khenkin/ECC Feugen 2006.

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/7**

■ **7 Bxc4 ... 10 Bb5+ Bd7**

1 d4 d5 2 c4 18.04.2018

*[ChessPublishing.com]*

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7** This is known to be safer but Black's chances to outplay White are very limited in this line. **11.Bxf6 gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc3+? just loses to 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.Rc1 followed by Rc1-c8. ]

**12.Bxd7+**

[ 12.Qb3 used to be the main continuation but recently Black is holding on.

**A)** 12...a6

**A1)** Some 15-20 years ago an interesting sacrifice 13.Bxd7+ Nxd7 14.Nxe6!? was rather dangerous for Black but now it is known to be drawish.

**A1a)** In case of 14...Qe5 White gets small advantage after 15.Ng7+ Kf8 16.Nf5 Qxe4+ 17.Ne3 Nc5 18.Qb4!⩲;

**A1b)** After 14...fxe6 the problems still remain: 15.Qxe6+ Kd8 16.Rd1 Qb5! *( 16...Qxc3+?! 17.Ke2 Qb2+* is worse: *18.Kf3 Qc3+ 19.Kg4! f5+!? 20.Kh5!* and White gets material advantage: *Qg7 21.Rxd7+ Qxd7 22.Qf6+ Kc7 23.Rc1+ Kb8 24.Qxh8+ Ka7 25.Qe5!± )* 17.Qxf6+ *(* White can also repeat moves: *17.Rd5 Qc6 18.Rd6 Qa4 19.Rd4; 17.c4 Qc6 18.Rd6 Qa4 19.0-0≅* is worthy of consideration but Black can also defend*)* 17...Kc7 18.Qd6+ Kc8 19.c4 Qa5+ 20.Rd2 Rd8⩲ and Black is under some pressure;

**A1c)** 14...Rc8! This rather unexpected move is the most convincing way to solve the problems. 15.0-0 Rxc3 16.Ng7+ Kf8 17.Qd1 Kxg7 18.Qg4+ Qg5 19.Qxd7 Black's K-side pawn structure is seriously damaged but White is late to get his rooks into play. Qb5! 20.Qxb5 *( Or 20.Qg4+ Qg5 21.Qe2 Rhc8=* and White has no chances to bother Black's king*)* 20...axb5 21.f3 White is fortifying his K-side pawn structure. *( 21.Rfb1 Ra8 22.Rxb5* is met by *Rxa2!=; 21.Rab1 Ra8 22.Rxb5 Rxa2 23.Rxb7 Rc4* is also drawish. White loses his e4-pawn since *24.f3* is met by *Rcc2 )* 21...Rhc8 *( 21...Rc2 22.Rf2 Rhc8 23.Rxc2 Rxc2 24.Rb1⩲* is similar*)* 22.Rab1 Rc2 23.Rf2 Rc1+ 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 25.Rf1 Rc4 *( 25...Rc2 26.Rb1⩲ )* 26.Rd1⩲ Thanks to his better pawn structure White has got a slight edge in this endgame but it is certainly drawish. The maximum White can achieve is the endgame 4 vs 3 on the K-side but the doubled f-pawns make Black's defences easier in such kind of endgames, P. Cramling - Brunner/ Biel 1994;

**A2)** 13.Be2 Nc6 14.0-0 Qc7 This type of position is under test during many years and the overall assessment has not been changing much. Black's damaged K-side pawn structure is a bit more important that White's weak c3-pawn. White usually maintains a small advantage by trying to disturb the vulnerable Black king.

**A2a)** 15.Rab1 Na5 16.Qa3 Rc8 may also promise some edge but in many cases Black can simplify into worse but drawish positions. Here White has a choice.

**A2a1)** Here 17.c4!? might also promise a small advantage for White:

**A2a11)** 17...Qc5 is also playable but not fully equalising: 18.Qc3 Ke7 (or *18...e5 19.Nb3 Nxb3 20.axb3 a5 21.Rfd1 Be6 22.h3!?±*) 19.Kh1 e5 White can secure a slight edge by 20.Nb3! Nxb3 21.axb3 a5 22.Rbd1±;

**A2a12)** 17...Nxc4!? 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Rfd1 Qc3 (in case of *19...Qc5* White gets initiative: *20.Qf3 b5 21.Qxf6 Rg8 22.Nf3 Qe7 23.Qd4↑*)

**A2a121)** after 20.Qd6 Qc7 21.Qb4 (*21.Qa3 Qc3*) 21...Rg8 22.Qd2 (*22.Qxb7 Qxb7 23.Rxb7 e5=* is drawish) 22...Rg5!∞ Black gets his K-side rook into play with a good prospects;

**A2a122)** 20.Qxc3!? The endgame gives better chances for White. 20...Rxc3 21.Rxb7 Bc8 22.Rb6!? (White does not achieve much after *22.Ra7 0-0 23.Ne2 Rc2 24.Nf4 Kg7=*) 22...0-0 23.Rd6± with a certain advantage for White.;

**A2a2)** 17.Rfd1

**A2a21)** 17...Qc5 18.Qc1 A typical manoeuvre - White sends his queen to the center or the opposite flank trying to put problems for the Black king. Ke7 19.c4!? Rhd8 The game continued 20.Nf5+! exf5 21.Rd5 Qc7 (An alternative *21...Qc6!?* did not solve the problems: *22.Qa3+ Ke8 23.Qxa5! fxe4 24.Rbd1↑* with a certain initiative) 22.Qa3+ Ke8 23.Rxa5 fxe4 24.Rh5 f5 25.Rxh7 with better chances for White, Burgess - Law/ Birmingham 1999;

**A2a22)** 17...Qxc3!? A principled and perhaps the most convincing way to get half a point.

**A2a221)** 18.Qd6 Qc7 seems to be fine for Black. 19.Nf5?! This tempting sacrifice, which was successfully played by Garry Kasparov, can actually create problems only for White. (White would repeat the moves by *19.Qb4 Qc3 20.Qd6=*) 19...exf5 20.Qxf6

**A2a2211)** 20...0-0? justifies White's strategy: 21.Rd3 f4 22.Rd5→ with decisive attack;

**A2a2212)** 20...Qc3? is also bad: 21.e5!+- Rf8 (or *21...Rg8 22.Rxd7! Kxd7 23.Qxf7+ Kc6 24.Qe6+* followed by 25.Qd6 checkmate) 22.Rxd7! Kxd7 23.Rd1+ Ke8 24.Bh5 Qc6 25.e6+- with a quick checkmate.;

**A2a2213)** 20...Rg8!

**A2a22131)** in the game Shulman - Yakovich/New York 1998 White went astray: 21.Bh5? Bc6! 22.Rd4? -2.17/24 ( *22.Qxf5* -1.05/23 22.Rbc1 -0.37 *Rg7∓; 22.Rbc1!=* 0.00/21 and White is okay. *fxe4 23.Re1* ) 22...Bxe4-+ 23.Rbd1 Nc6! 24.Qe6+ Kf8 25.Qh6+ Ke7! 26.Rd7+ Qxd7 27.Rxd7+ Kxd7-+ and Black has eventually converted his material advantage;

**A2a22132)** 21.exf5! Qc6!? ( it is worth considering to include *21...Qc3!? 22.Rd4* and only now *Qc6!* Wards off Re4+ *23.Qe5+ Kf8∞* - perhaps this line may promise real advantage for Black ) 22.Qe5+ Kf8 23.Bf3 Qc7 24.Qe3! Bxf5 25.Rbc1 Nc4!? ( or *25...Qe7 26.Qh6+ Ke8 27.Qxh7!? Qg5 28.Rxc8+! Bxc8∞* with roughly equal play) 26.Qh6+

**A2a221321)** Black could already force a repetition of moves by 26...Rg7 27.Rxc4! Qxc4 28.Qd6+! Ke8! ( of course, not *28...Kg8??* #2/15 28...Ke8 0.00 *29.Qd8+! Rxd8 30.Rxd8#* checkmate!) 29.Qe5+! Kf8 30.Qd6+!=;

**A2a221322)** 26...Rg7= 0.00/25 and Black stays safe. 27.Rxc4 Qxc4 28.Qd6+ Ke8 29.Qe5+ Kf8

30.Qd6+ Ke8 31.Qe5+ Kf8 32.Qd6+;

**A2a221323)** 26...Ke8!? 1.89/23 27.Re1++- Be6 28.Rxe6+? -0.09/19 ( *28.Qxh7? 0.00/22* 28.Bh5 1.66 *Kd7 29.Rcd1+ Nd6;* Only move: *28.Bh5!+- 1.98/26 Kd7 29.Bxf7 Bxf7 30.Red1+ Ke8 31.Re1+ Kd7 32.Red1+ Ke7 33.Re1+ Kd7* ) 28...fxe6= 29.Qxe6+ Kf8 30.Bd5 Rg6 31.Qf5+ Kg7 32.Rxc4 Qe7!⩱ and Black's chances look somewhat better;

**A2a222)** 18.Nb3! Nxb3! ( *18...Nc4?* 2.88/24 18...Nxb3 0.11 is losing to *19.Bxc4 Qxc4 20.Rbc1! Qb5 21.Rxc8+ Bxc8 22.Rc1 Qd7 23.Qc5 Qc6 24.Qb4 Qd7 25.Na5+-* ) 19.Rxb3 Qc7 ( the endgame after *19...Qc5 20.Qxc5! Rxc5 21.Rxb7 Bc8 22.Ra7 0-0 23.a4±* is difficult for Black) 20.Qb2⩲ 0.03/28 White gets a pawn back and maintains the better chances. However, after ( *20.Rf3⩲* 0.41/23 ) 20...Qe5! 21.Rxb7 Bc6 22.Qxe5 ( or *22.Rb6 Qxb2 23.Rxb2 Bxe4 24.Bxa6 Ra8⩲* ) 22...fxe5 23.Ra7 0-0 ( *23...Bxe4?! 24.Bxa6* ) 24.f3 Bb5! 25.Bxb5 axb5 26.Rb7 Rc2 27.Rxb5⩲ and the endgame 4 vs 3 on the K-side is most likely to be drawish;

**A2b)** 15.Qa3 This seems to be the most promising continuation. 15...Rc8 16.Rfd1 This seems to be the most promising way - White first of all places his rook on the d-file.

**A2b1)** 16...h5?! seems dubious: 17.Rd2 0.10/25 ( *17.h3⩲* 0.62/18 ) 17...Ne5 18.Rad1 Qxc3? 3.80/23 and here ( *18...Qc5!=* 0.25/21 *19.Qb3 Rc7* ) 19.Nb3!+- with idea 20.Rxd7! Nxd7 21.Rc1 wins instantly: Qc7 20.f4!+-;

**A2b2)** 16...Rg8!? 17.Rab1 Rg5!?⩲ deserves attention;

**A2b3)** while 16...Ne5 17.c4 ( *17.Rab1!?* ) 17...Qc5! 18.Qb3⩲ gives White a typical small advantage;

**A2b4)** 16...Na5 Black also tried some other options. 17.c4 Qc5 This position arose in the game

Bocharov - Ovod/St. Petersburg 2002, which continued 18.Qc3 ( *18.Qg3!?* is also interesting) and here 18...Nxc4! should have been played: 19.Rac1 b5! 20.Bxc4 bxc4 ( *20...Qxc4?* 4.67/21 20...bxc4 0.24 *21.Qd2+-* ) 21.Nc2!? Qe5 22.Rd4± with idea Nc2-e3 and White maintains initiative but Black should not be too bad.;

**B)** 12...Bxb5 13.Nxb5 0-0 14.0-0 Nc6 can lead to the main line.;

**C)** 12...0-0 The most popular approach. 13.0-0

**C1)** 13...Qb6 does not equalise: 14.Rfd1! Nc6 15.Bxc6!

**C1a)** 15...Qxb3 1.05/25 15...Bxc6 0.31 16.axb3 Bxc6 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Kf1± 0.28/23 ( *18.Ra5±* 0.76/22 );

**C1b)** 15...Bxc6 16.Qc2 Rac8 17.Qe2 Qc5 18.Rab1 ( *18.Rd3!?* ) 18...Kh8 19.Rd3 Rg8 20.g3 Rgd8 21.Qf3 Kg7 22.Rbd1± and Black's defence is not so easy;

**C2)** 13...Bxb5 14.Nxb5 Nc6 ( *14...Nd7?!* 0.84/21 14...Nc6 0.09 is dubious. White gets a big advantage by a simple *15.c4 a6 16.Nd6±* followed by Ra1-d1 )

**C2a)** 15.Rad1 0.00/26 15.c4 0.36 Rad8 16.Nd6 Qe5 17.Qa3 does not promise much: b6 ( *17...Rd7!?* deserves attention as well) 18.Rd3 ( *18.f4* can be met by *Qa5 19.Qxa5 Nxa5 20.Rf3 Nb7!* with a drawish endgame: *21.Rg3+ Kh8 22.Rgd3 Nxd6 23.Rxd6 Rxd6 24.Rxd6 Rc8 25.Rd7 Kg7=* and so on ) 18...Qf4! 19.Rfd1 Ne5 20.Rg3+ Kh8 and Black is okay;

**C2b)** 15.Rae1 Rfd8 16.Re3 White transfers his rook to the K-side but it would be very difficult to provide real support for it. Rd2

**C2b1)** 17.Rg3+!? Kh8 18.c4 is also tempting but Black could defend: Ne5! Wards off Qf3 ( *18...Rg8 19.Nd6!* )

**C2b11)** 19.c5 Rg8 20.Rxg8+ -0.85/5 ( *20.Rc3!∓* -0.36/22 ) 20...Kxg8∓ 21.Qg3+ Kf8! was okay for Black;

**C2b12)** 19.Qe3 Rg8 20.Qh6! Rxg3 21.hxg3 Kg8! Wards off Qf8+ 22.Qxf6 Nxc4 and Black is holding on;

**C2b2)** 17.Nd4!? Nxd4 18.cxd4 Rxd4 19.Qxb7 Re8! 20.Qb2 Red8 21.h3 Qe5± 0.39/20 Thanks to the weakened Black's king White's chances are preferable but Black's position is defendable, Malakhatko - Schenk/Deizisau 2004. ( *21...h6=* 0.00/21 feels stronger. );

**C2c)** 15.c4 White also tried to get his rook to the K-side first. 15...Rad8 ( An attempt to quickly bring the queen to defence by *15...Qd2 16.Rad1 Qf4! 17.Nd6↑* limits the prospects of Black's rooks very much. )

**C2c1)** 16.Rae1 does not promise much: Qd2 17.Qg3+ ( *17.c5!?* deserves attention) 17...Kh8 18.Re3 Rg8 19.Qf4 -1.48/23 ( *19.Qf3=* -0.21/22 *Rg6 20.c5* ) 19...Rg6 and Black is doing well.;

**C2c2)** in case of 16.c5 it is better to exchange White's knight, which can be rather dangerous for Black on d6-square:. next Nd6 is good for White. Nd4 ( *16...Rd2?!* 0.93/20 16...Rd7 0.00 *17.Qg3+! Kh8 18.Qf4 Kg7 19.Nd6!↑* ) 17.Nxd4 Rxd4 18.Qg3+ Kh8 19.Qf4 Kg7 The game Krasenkow - H. Olafsson/ Reykjavik 2004 continued

**C2c21)** 20.Rab1 is fine for Black: Qxc5 21.Rxb7 ( *21.Rb3!? Rfd8□ 22.Rg3+* Deflection *Kf8 23.Qxf6=* ) 21...Qg5 22.Qc7 Qe5 23.Qe7 Rxe4 24.Rxa7 Re1=;

**C2c22)** 20.Rac1!? Rc8 21.Qg4+ Kh8 ( there is nothing wrong with *21...Kf8* ) 22.Qh5 and here Kg8! was correct and White could achieve nothing: 23.Qg4+ ( *23.Rfe1 Rc4!; 23.e5? Rxc5* ) 23...Kf8± and so on.;

**C2c3)** 16.Qg3+ White also tried some other options. 16...Kh8 17.Qh4 Kg7 Black has no choice and now White can make a draw any time he wants. The question is whether he can provide real help for his queen. 18.f4

**C2c31)** In the game Mamedyarov - Bluvstein/ Calvia de Mallorca (ol) 2004 White put real problems before Black after 18...Rd3 19.e5! Qd8 20.Qh5! White is playing energetically - now he is simply going to bring remaining pieces into action by Ra1-e1, Nb5-d6 and so on.

**C2c311)** An interesting 20...a6!? 21.Nd6 fxe5! can be met by 22.c5! (in case of *22.fxe5* Black escapes into the drawish endgame by *Nxe5! 23.Qxe5+ f6 24.Nxb7 fxe5 25.Nxd8 Rfxd8±* ) 22...f5 ( or *22...Qf6?* 2.63/21 22...f5 0.31 *23.f5!↑* ) 23.fxe5↑ and White maintains his initiative;

**C2c312)** 20...Kg8 21.Rae1 a6 0.74/23 ( *21...f5±* 0.37/22 ) 22.Nd6± fxe5! 23.c5! f5 ( *23...Qf6?* 2.86/21 23...f5 0.34 *24.f5!→* couldn't extinguish White's initiative) 24.fxe5↑ White has supported his knight on d6 very well so his chances should be preferred without any doubts.;

**C2c32)** 18...Qd2!

This novelty might become a heavy blow to all White's attempts to put real problems for Black in the whole 10.Bb5 approach.

**C2c321)** The logical 19.Rf3!? can be well met by Rg8!

**C2c3211)** White must be careful - such actions as 20.Rg3+?! -0.37/21 20.f5 0.10 Kf8 21.Rxg8+ -1.83/20 ( *21.Qxf6∓* -0.54/20 *Rxg3 22.hxg3 Qe3+ 23.Kh2 Qxe4 24.Qh6+ Kg8 25.Nxa7* ) 21...Kxg8-+ 22.Qxf6 may be fatal for his knight on b5 after a6! For example, 23.Nc7 Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Qxe4∓;

**C2c3212)** 20.e5 also clarifies position in Black's favour: fxe5 21.fxe5 -0.58/23 ( *21.Rg3+=* 0.00/24 *Kf8 22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Qh4+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Ke7 25.Qh4+ Kd7 26.Qh5* ) 21...Rd7!∓ 22.Rg3+! ( *22.Rf2* -1.26/22 22.Rg3+ -0.61 *Qe3* ) 22...Kf8 23.Rxg8+! Kxg8 24.Qg3+ Kh8∓ xe5;

**C2c3213)** 20.f5

**C2c32131)** perhaps a simple 20...e5!? is more reliable: 21.Raf1 ( *21.Nc3!?* ) 21...Nd4 22.Rg3+ Kf8 23.Rxg8+ Kxg8 24.Qxf6 Ne2+ 25.Kh1 Qd1! ( *25...a6!? 26.Nc7□ Qd1 27.Qg5+ Kh8 28.Qf6+ Kg8 29.Qg5+ Kh8 30.Qf6+ Kg8=* ) 26.Qg5+ Kf8 ( *26...Kh8!? 27.Qf6+□ Kg8 28.Qg5+ Kf8 29.Qh6+ Kg8 30.Qg5+=* ) 27.Qh6+ Kg8= and White must repeat the moves;

**C2c32132)** 20...Rd3!?

An interesting option. 21.Qg3+ Kh8 22.Rxd3 Qb2! 23.Qf2 Qxa1+ 24.Qf1 Qb2⇄ with reasonable counterplay: 25.fxe6 fxe6 26.Nd4 Ne5! 27.Qxf6+ Rg7

28.Qf8+ Rg8
29.Qf6+ Rg7=
with a repetition of moves which seems to be the most logical finish in this whole line.;

**C2c322)** 19.e5 fxe5 20.Qg5+ Kh8 21.Qf6+ Kg8 22.Qg5+ Kh8 23.Qf6+ Kg8 24.Rae1 White is trying to get any rook to the g-file but it does not seem to be possible. The game Mamedyarov - P.H. Nielsen/Wijk aan Zee B 2005 continued

**C2c3221)** It was also unclear how White would create mating threats in case of 24...exf4 For example, 25.Re4 e5 26.g3 ( *26.c5 Qxa2* ) 26...Rd3 27.gxf4 Rh3=;

**C2c3222)** 24...a6 25.Qg5+ Kh8 26.Qf6+ Kg8 and after a few fruitless attempts White eventually played the perpetual check. ]

**12...Nxd7 13.0-0** This simple approach has recently become popular. **13...a6**

[ 13...Qxc3 0.64/23 13...Rd8 0.24 is becoming popular, 14.Qa4 ( *14.Rc1* 0.37/22 14.Nb5 0.75 *Qa5 15.Rb1!?* Aronian,L-Bluebaum,M/Karlsruhe/Baden Baden GER 2018.; *14.Nb5!? Qc6 15.a4±* ) 14...0-0! 15.Nxe6! Nb6 ( *15...fxe6* 0.92/21 15...Nb6 0.28 *16.Qxd7↑* ) 16.Qd4 Rfc8 ( *16...Qxd4 17.Nxd4 Rfd8 18.Nf5±* ) 17.Qxc3 Rxc3 ]

[ 13...Rd8?! does not solve the problems: 14.Rb1

**A)** 14...Ne5?! 15.Rxb7 Qxc3 1.05/24 ( *15...0-0!±* 0.59/21 ) 16.Qa4+± Kf8 17.Rd1±;

**B)** 14...Qxc3± 0.31/22 15.Nb5 Qc6;

**C)** 14...Nc5 1.09/21 15.Qf3↑ ]

[in case of 13...Nc5 1.03/20 13...Qe5 0.16 White can secure the better chances by 14.Qf3! Ke7 15.Nb3!? 0.12/26 ( White should try *15.Qf4±* 1.32/20 )

**A)** 15...Qc7? 1.90/21 15...Nxb3 0.28 16.Nxc5! Qxc5 17.e5! fxe5 18.Qxb7+ Kf6 19.Qf3+ Ke7 20.Rab1 White threatens Rb7+ and mate. Rab8 21.Qh3↑ 1.05/22 ( *21.Qg4+-* 2.17/21 has better winning chances. );

**B)** 15...Nxb3!= 16.axb3 Qb6 1.04/23 ( *16...Qe5!=* 0.15/19 keeps the balance.) 17.c4± 0.34/20 ( *17.e5±* 1.04/23 *fxe5 18.Qg3* )]

[ 13...Qc7!? deserves attention: 14.Qd2 Nc5 0.74/19 ( *14...Rg8±* 0.31/21 ) 15.Rae1 0.24/23 ( *15.Qe3* 0.44/20 15.Nb5 0.97 seems more precise; *15.Nb5±* 0.74/19 *Qc6 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.e5* ) 15...0-0-0!?∞ and Black has managed to move his king to the safer place. ]

**14.Rb1 Qc7**

[ Black's defence must be well thought out, such routine play as 14...Nc5?! 1.02/19 14...Qc7 0.49 15.Qf3 Qd8 1.95/21 ( *15...Rg8±* 1.05/20 ) 16.Rfe1

0.78/23 *( 16.Rfd1+- 1.95/21* is more deadly. *Qe7 17.Ne2 )* 16...Rc8 1.84/21 *( 16...Qe7± 0.78/23* was called for.*)* 17.Rbd1 with the idea Nd4-f5 gives White a strong initiative. ]

**15.Qf3!?** White has tried many moves with his queen but this one, which has never been popular, might be the most promising option.

[ 15.Qg4 does not promise much: h5 16.Qh3 -0.20/19 *( △16.Qe2 0.29/20 )* 16...Ke7 0.22/19 *( 16...h4 -0.20/19* deserves consideration.*)* 17.f4 h4! 18.Qf3 Rac8 and after 19.e5 Qxc3 20.exf6+ Kxf6 21.Qxc3 Rxc3 and Black is fine ]

[ 15.Qe2 gives White nothing special: 0-0 16.Rfd1 Kh8 17.Rd3 0.00/23 *( 17.Qf3⩲ 0.50/23 )* 17...Rg8∞ with acceptable play. ]

[ 15.Qd2!? is one of the main options but Black is doing well:

**A)** White's idea not to move his queen to the Q-side would be justified if Black still wants to castle - then it takes less time to transfer White's queen to the opposite flank: 15...0-0 0.66/25 15...Rg8 0.22 16.Rfd1

**A1)** 16...Ne5?! , which has been played in the game Azmaiparashvili - Harikrishna/ Dos Hermanas 2005, is even worse. Here White could have secured a tangible advantage by playing 17.f4! Nc6!? Probably the best defence - Black exchanges one of the attacking pieces. 18.f5 *( 18.Qf2!? Kh8 19.Qh4 Qe7 20.Kh1± )* 18...Kh8 19.Qh6 Qe7 20.Rb6!? 0.12/19 *( 20.Rf1⩲ 0.66/20 )* 20...Nxd4!= 21.cxd4 exf5! 22.exf5± and so on;

**A2)** 16...Nc5± 0.61/23 should be considered.;

**A3)** 16...Rad8 1.08/21 17.Qh6± Kh8 18.Rd3 0.66/20 *(*White should play *18.Nf3± 1.30/23 )* 18...Rg8⩲ 19.Ne2!⩲ 0.49/21 and White has secured a slight edge, Akopian - Izoria/ Aeroflot Open Moscow 2005. *( 19.Nf3± 0.85/22 Rde8 20.Rbd1 )*;

**B)** 15...Rc8!? is worthy of consideration. A possible play is 16.Rfd1 *(* White could have thought about *16.Qh6!? Ke7⩲* with slightly worse but playable position for Black *)* 16...b5 17.f4 -0.18/20 *( △17.Qh6 0.26/21 )* 17...Nc5= 18.Qe3 with a complicated position, probably with somewhat better chances for White in the game P. Smirnov - V.Popov/Aeroflot Open Moscow 2005;

**C)** 15...h5! One of Black's main problem in such type of position is that his K-rook is often lacks connection with other forces while it has no real work on the K-side. Thus Black is trying to get his rook on h8 into action, meanwhile preventing a possible White queen's jump to h6. Besides, Black is going to keep his king in center and pressurize over the c-file, trying to distract White's attention from the main target. Perhaps such approach is more risky but it would also promise more counter chances. 16.f4 -0.03/23 *(* Better is *16.h3⩲ 0.56/21 )* 16...Rc8 0.36/21 *( 16...0-0-0= -0.03/23 )* 17.Rf3 b5

18.Re1 Nb6 19.Qf2 h4! 20.Rh3 Na4⇄ This is a kind of position Black should try to achieve in this line - all his pieces are doing a good work and White cannot think about attacking actions against Black's centralized king, Gelfand - Topalov/Monte Carlo 2005. ]

[ 15.Qh5!? This queen's sortie keeps Black under some pressure.

**A)** 15...0-0? is too risky as after 16.Rbd1 Nc5 17.f4± White launches a direct attack against Black's king;

**B)** 15...Ke7 does not solve the problems due to

**B1)** White also tried 16.Rfd1 b5 ( Black has successfully tried other continuations, such as *16...Rac8 17.Qh4 b5∞;* or *16...Rad8 17.Rd3 Ne5 18.Rg3 Ng6 19.Qd1 Rd7 20.Qb3 Rc8∞* with acceptable play in both cases but perhaps White could have posed more problems for Black in these games) 17.Rb2! A good manoeuvre - White doubles his rooks along the d-file. Rac8 18.Rbd2 Nc5 This position occurred in the game Avrukh - Grischuk/Biel 2007. Here 19.Qh4!? seemed more to the point. Then in case of Qe5 White would think about 20.f4!? ( a tempting *20.Nf3!? Qxe4 21.Rd7+ Ke8 22.Qxf6 Nxd7 23.Qxh8+ Nf8* was less promising) 20...Qxe4 21.Re2 Qg6 22.f5 Qg5 23.Qh3 e5 24.Nf3 Qg7 25.Qh4↑ with excellent attacking chances.;

**B2)** 16.f4!

**B2a)** Other continuations couldn't stop White's initiative, too: 16...Rac8 17.e5 fxe5 18.fxe5 Rcf8 and here a possible way would have been 19.Qf3 Nc5 ( *19...Nxe5? 20.Qf6+ Ke8 21.Nf5! Rhg8 22.Rxb7! Rxg2+! 23.Kxg2 Qxb7+ 24.Kh3 Qc7 25.Re1!+-* ) 20.Rb4! with idea Nd4-b3 with decisive attack;

**B2b)** or 16...Rhg8 17.e5 Rac8 18.Rbe1↑ with a strong initiative.;

**B2c)** 16...Qxc3 17.Rfd1→ Black's position is hard to defend and he was quickly smashed in the game Gustafsson - Naiditsch/Dortmund 2008.;

**C)** 15...Nc5 The most reliable defence.

**C1)** White also tried other options but most of them are rather harmless for Black: 16.Rbe1 is rather harmless for Black: 0-0-0 17.Re3 Kb8 18.g3 Ka8 19.Rb1 Qe7 20.Nb3 Rc8 , equalising without serious problems;

**C2)** 16.Rfe1 0-0-0 17.Re3 ( *17.Qf3!?* ) 17...e5!? ( *17...Qe5!? 18.Qe2 Rhg8∞* ) 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 Qd7 20.g3 Qe6 21.Rf3± and White has maintained a small advantage;

**C3)** 16.f4 0-0-0 17.Qf3 Rd7 18.Qe3 Kb8 19.Rb4 Rc8 and Black has no problems.;

**C4)** 16.Rb4! A strong manoeuvre - Rb4-c4 followed by Nd4xe6 is threatened. 16...Qe5

**C4a)** 17.Qxe5 The endgame after fxe5 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 0-0-0 is certainly drawish although White can still maintain a slight edge by 20.f4! exf4 21.Rc4+ Kb8 22.Rxf4±;

**C4b)** 17.Qf3 does not impress too much. White puts his queen in the way of his f-pawn and so he cannot immediately push his opponent's queen from the strong e5-square. However, the main drawback of Black's position, his damaged K-side pawn structure, is still there so he has to defend carefully: Rd8 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.axb3 b5 20.Qe3 0-0 21.Rd4 White keeps some advantage thanks to opponent's vulnerable king. However, Black does not have any other problems so his position seems defendable with accurate play, Romanov - Sargissian/Moscow 2009.;

**C4c)** 17.Qh4 was White's common option but he can put his queen more actively. Here Black can think about Rd8!? ( *17...Qg5 18.Qh3* has been played many times, but it is considered after 17. Qh6 Qg5 18. Qh3 ) 18.Nf3!? Qxc3 19.e5! Rg8! Only the activity of all pieces can distract White from his general plan. ( In the game Tkachiev - Balogh/World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk 2007, Black faced serious problems after the dubious *19...f5?! 20.Rc4 Qa5 21.Ng5 Ne4 22.Rxe4! fxe4* ) 20.Qxh7 Ke7 21.Rf4 f5 The game Gelfand - Aronian/ FIDE GP Nalchik 2009, continued

**C4c1)** 22.Rd4!? might have been more promising. A possible play would be Rxg2+!? ( surely not *22...Qxf3?? 23.Qh4+;* while *22...Rxd4 23.Qxg8* did not seem fully equalising) 23.Kxg2 Rxd4 24.Nxd4 Qxd4 with good compensation for the exchange. However, White could still try to play on: 25.Qh5 Qe4+ 26.Qf3 Qxe5 27.Rd1 f4 28.h4± keeping somewhat better chances;

**C4c2)** 22.Qh4+ Ke8 23.g3 Ne4 24.Rxe4!? fxe4 25.Qxe4 Rd5 26.Qf4 and White's initiative fully compensates the exchange but probably not more than that.;

**C4d)** 17.Qh6!?

**C4d1)** 17...Qg5 18.Qh3 is an alternative line:

**C4d11)** In case of 18...Rg8

**C4d111)** 19.f4 gives nothing: Qg4 20.Qxg4 Rxg4 21.g3 Rc8= with equal ending;

**C4d112)** while after 19.Rc4?! b5! White has to force a draw by 20.Rxc5 (here *20.f4??* fails to *Qxg2+! 21.Qxg2 Rxg2+ 22.Kxg2 bxc4* with extra pawn in the ending ) 20...Qxc5 21.Nxe6! fxe6 22.Qxe6+ Kf8 23.Qxf6+ Ke8 24.Qe6+ 1/2 Khismatullin - P.H. Nielsen/EU-ch Plovdiv 2008;

**C4d113)** 19.g3! would still promise the better chances for White:

**C4d1131)** in case of 19...Rc8?! White would have captured the pawn: 20.Qxh7;

**C4d1132)** while after 19...Qg6!? 20.Rc4! b6 21.Rb1 Qxe4 22.Rxb6 Qe1+ ( or *22...Rg5 23.Qf1 Qd3 24.Qxd3 Nxd3* ) 23.Qf1 Qxf1+ 24.Kxf1 Rg5 25.Rc6 Nd7 26.Nb3± Black has to defend the worse ending.;

**C4d1133)** 19...h5 20.Rc4!

**C4d11331)** 20...b5?? 21.f4+-;

**C4d11332)** 20...Rc8? suddenly loses due to unfortunate position of some Black's pieces, especially the rook on g8. A similar and playable for Black position without inclusion of the moves ... Rh8-g8 and g2-g3 is considered after the main 18...h5: 21.Nxe6!! (a typical *21.Nb3?*, swapping Black's important knight, maintains the edge but it is certainly weaker than the deadly blow: *b6 22.Nxc5 Rxc5 23.f4±* ) 21...fxe6 22.Rxc5!

**C4d113321)** 22...Qxc5 wasn't better: 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 (with the rook on h8 Black could simply move his king to the Q-side) 24.Qxf6+ Ke8 25.Qe6+ Kf8 26.Rd1 Rg7 ( *26...Qc6 27.Rd6+-* ) 27.Rd5+- with decisive advantage;

**C4d113322)** 22...Rxc5 23.Qxe6+ Kf8 24.Rd1 Kg7 25.h4! Only this pawn push, which breaks coordination between opponent's pieces, justifies White's rook sacrifice!

**C4d1133221)** In case of 25...Qg4 some precision was still required: 26.Rd7+! *( 26.Qe7+? Kh8!-+ )* 26...Kh8 *( 26...Kh6 27.Qxf6+ Qg6 28.Qf4+! )* 27.Qxf6+ Rg7 28.Qf8+ Kh7 29.Rxg7+ Qxg7 30.Qxc5+-;

**C4d1133222)** 25...Qg6 26.Qe7+ Kh6 27.Qxc5+- Two extra pawns and vulnerable Black's king make White's win easy, G.Meier - Acs/Paks 2009.;

**C4d11333)** 20...b6 21.Rb1 *( 21.f4 Qg4 22.Qxg4 hxg4 23.Rb1±; 21.a4!?± )*

**C4d113331)** 21...h4 isn't better: 22.Rxb6 Qc1+ 23.Qf1 *( 23.Kg2?! Nd3 24.Rxe6+ Kf8 25.Rxf6 Ne1+ 26.Kf1 Nf3+ 27.Kg2 Ne1+= )* 23...Qxf1+ 24.Kxf1 hxg3 25.hxg3 Nxe4 26.Kg2↑ with initiative;

**C4d113332)** 21...b5!? 22.Nf3! *( 22.f4?? Qxf4 23.Rxc5 Qe3+-+ )* 22...Qg4 23.Qxg4 hxg4 24.Rxc5 gxf3 25.Rc7 and Black has to do a good work to hold balance in this ending.;

**C4d12)** In case of 18...Qe5 19.Re1 Rd8 20.Qe3 Rg8 21.Nf3 *( 21.f4 Qc7 22.Rc4 b6 23.Nb3 Rc8⇄ )* 21...Qc7 22.Rd4 Nd7 23.Red1 Ke7 24.g3± White also keeps a small but stable advantage.;

**C4d13)** 18...h5!?

**C4d131)** 19.f4 Qg4 20.Qe3 Rg8 21.Rb2 Rc8 22.Rd2 h4 was the lesser evil for Black in the game Sasikiran - Macieja/ Warsaw 2008 but here White would have also secured the edge by playing 23.Nb3!? , swapping important Black's knight, which defends the Q-side as well as prevents a possible invasion through the d-file. A possible play would have been Qh5 *( both 23...Nxb3?! 24.axb3 Rd8 25.Rff2; and 23...b6?! 24.Qd4 e5*

*25.fxe5 Qxe4 26.exf6±* were far from solving the problems*)* 24.e5!? *( 24.Kh1?!* was strongly met by *Nxb3 25.axb3 Rg3!;* while *24.Qd4 h3 25.g3 Nxb3 26.axb3 Qc5* should be drawish *)* 24...fxe5 25.fxe5 Nxb3 26.axb3± with better chances for White since Black's king will never be absolutely safe.;

**C4d132)** 19.Rc4! Rc8 *(Or 19...b6 20.Nb3↑ )* 20.Nb3 b6 21.Nxc5 Rxc5 22.Qd3 0-0 23.f4 Qg6± White keeps some edge but Black's position should be defendable;

**C4d2)** 17...Rc8!?

**C4d21)** 18.a4 can be well met with Qxe4! 19.Qxf6 Rg8 20.Qf3 *( 20.g3 Nd7! 21.Qh6 Rxc3* is also good for Black*)* 20...Rg4!? *( 20...Qxf3 21.Nxf3 Ke7* could not be bad for Black*)* 21.Qh3 h5!? with acceptable play for Black.;

**C4d22)** 18.Nf3 A typical attacking method. 18...Qxc3 19.Rd4 Ke7 20.e5! *( 20.e5!? Nd7□ 21.Qh4= )* 20...Nd7! *(*Surely not *20...fxe5??* 4.68/20 20...Nd7 0.63 *21.Qg5+ Ke8 22.Qxe5 Rg8 23.Rd8+! Rxd8 24.Qxc3+- )* 21.Qh4 Black's position looks dangerous but he keeps sufficient defensive resources. Rhg8 *(*Better than *21...Rhd8?!* 0.82/28 21...Rhg8 0.26 *22.Rf4!* with initiative.*)* 22.Kh1 ( In case of *22.Rfd1 Rgd8!* the more active position of White's rooks would only force him to give perpetual by *23.Rxd7+ Rxd7 24.Qxf6+ Ke8 25.Qh8+; 22.Rf4* -0.35/23 22.Kh1 0.07 *Rg6* was fine for Black.*)* 22...b5! Intending to swap White's active rook by ... Rc8-c4. 23.h3 ( Again, *23.Rfd1 Rgd8!* would lead to perpetual check soon.*)* 23...Rc4! 24.Rxd7+! This sacrifice is not winning and it may even not give White any advantage. However, Black still must be very careful as his king is vulnerable. ( Some simplifications after *24.Rfd1?! Rxd4 25.exf6+ Nxf6 26.Rxd4 Rc8∓* were favourable for Black*;* while *24.Qxh7* -0.30/24 24.Rxd7+ 0.10 *Rxd4 25.Qxg8 Rd5 26.exf6+ Nxf6* was also good for him as White couldn't get his rook in action.) 24...Kxd7 25.Qxf6 Here Black has a choice.

**C4d221)** A natural alternative 25...Ke8!? ...Qc2 is the strong threat. 26.Rd1 ( *26.Ng5* does not promise much: *Rxg5! 27.Qxg5 Qd3* Against Rd1 *28.Kg1 Rc2* and White's rook can not be activated. However, Black still has to be careful as his king was not safe) 26...Rc8! Wards off Qd8+ 27.Ng5 Qc7 0.75/25 Black has secured his pawns but it allowed White to get all his pieces to very active positions. ( *27...Rxg5!=* 0.16/24 *28.Qxg5 Qc2* ) 28.Ne4!± Kf8

**C4d2211)** White could force a draw by 29.Ng5 0.00/24 29.g3 0.96 Ke8 0.56/21 ( *29...Rxg5=* 0.00/24 *30.Qxg5 Qc2* ) 30.Ne4!=;

**C4d2212)** 29.Nd6!

**C4d22121)** A natural 29...Rd8?! 0.99/21 29...Rb8 0.58 makes Black's task more difficult: 30.Rd4! and here he already had to be very precise in defence: Qc1+! (after *30...Rg6?* 4.03/20 30...Qc1+ 0.72 *31.Qh8+ Rg8 32.Qxh7* Qh6+ would now be deadly. *Qc1+ 33.Kh2 Rd7 34.g3+-* Black found himself defenceless, Gupta - Naumann/Bad Wiessee 2009) 31.Kh2 Rd7 32.Rg4!? 0.22/28 Inhibits Qg5. ( *32.h4!±* 0.99/22 ) 32...Qd2!= 33.Ne4 Qc1! etc.;

**C4d22122)** 29...Rb8! 30.Rd4 Rg7! and it's not easy, if possible, for White to get real benefit from his powerful position. However, he would still try: 31.h4 ( *31.Rg4* 0.00/26 31.h4 0.36 *Rxg4 32.hxg4* would only secure the perpetual: *b4 33.Qh8+ Ke7 34.Qf6+ Kf8=* ) 31...Kg8 32.g3 0.00/22 , slowly improving the position. However, it would still be not easy to make it harmful for Black. Perhaps then White would think about shifting the knight to f6 by Qf6-f4 and Nd6-e4, followed by h4-h5, Qf4-h6 and Rd4-g4... ( *32.Qf4⩲* 0.41/23 was preferrable. );

**C4d222)** 25...Qd3!? Giving up a couple of pawns but keeping opponent's rook passive. 26.Qxf7+ Kc6 27.Qxe6+ Kb7 28.Re1 The position is extremely complicated. White is at least not worse and a draw seems to be the most likely result as it is not so clear how he can play for a win since he cannot begin rolling his powerful K-side pawns, Kramnik - Naiditsch/ Dortmund 2009. ]

[Finally, after 15.f4 -0.12/24 15.Qh5 0.49 White has a wide choice and he usually developed his queen towards K-side.

**A)** In such type of position Black's main problem is the vulnerability of his king and he has a logical choice - to keep it in center or to move it to either flank. Every such action must be well thought - sometimes it might work, sometimes it is too risky. Here 15...0-0-0!? deserves attention: 16.Qe2 ( *16.Qf3!?* seems more energetic ) 16...Nc5 17.Rb4 Kb8 18.Rfb1 Rd6 19.Rc4 Rc8 20.Qh5 -0.49/24 ( *20.h3=* 0.00/22 ) 20...Rb6⇄ with reasonable counter chances as White's Q-side may be also rather vulnerable;

**B)** 15...0-0-0= -0.12/24;

**C)** 15...h5 0.41/20 16.Qf3 This position arose in the game Chatalbashev - J. Gustafsson/ Calvia de Mallorca (ol) 2004, which continued by Rc8!? 17.e5! 0.11/24 ( *17.Rfd1!⩲* 0.66/20 ) 17...b6 and here 18.f5! seemed more energetic although Black could still defend by: Qxc3 ( *18...Nxe5? 19.Qg3↑* ) 19.Qf2! fxe5 ( *19...Nxe5 20.fxe6 Ng4 21.Qf4↑* ) 20.fxe6 Qxd4 21.exd7+ Qxd7 22.Rbe1!?↑ Rc6 23.Rxe5+ Kf8! and so on. ]

**15...Rc8**

[ 15...0-0-0 0.49/22 15...Rc8 0.08 fails to solve the problems: 16.Rb4 Ne5! ( *16...Nc5* 1.24/20 *16...Ne5* 0.63 *17.Rfb1* gives White annoying initiative) 17.Qxf6 Ng4! 0.70/21 ( *17...Nd3! 18.Rbb1 Qxc3 19.Qxf7! Rd7 20.Ne2!* secures extra pawn for White; *17...Nd3!=* 0.28/22 is more appropriate. *18.Rbb1 Qxc3 19.Qxf7 Rd7* ) 18.Qh4⩲ Qxc3

**A)** in case of 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Rb3 Qg7 21.Qg3! Wards off Ne5. White wants to mate with Rc1+. b5! Black keeps drawish chances:. And now ...Rhg8 would win. 22.h3 h5! 23.a4! Qe5 24.hxg4 Qxg3 25.Rxg3 hxg4 26.axb5 axb5 27.Rxg4 Rd4 0.87/19 etc. ( *27...Kc7!⩲* 0.40/21 );

**B)** 19.Nc6!? Qxc6 ( *19...bxc6?*

1.98/20 19...Rd7 0.90 *20.Rb3 Qg7 21.Rfb1→ )* 20.Qxg4 Black must now prevent Qg7. Rd7!? *( 20...Kb8* 1.51/19 20...Rd7 0.80 *21.Qg7↑ )* 21.Qg7 Rhd8 22.Qxh7 Qc2± and Black gets counter chances. ]

**16.Rfd1 0-0** 0.48/24

[In case of 16...b6!? White would think about 17.Qg4!? 0.00/22 with idea to meet *( 17.Qe3±* 0.47/19 is superior.*)* 17...Ke7? 2.32/20 by *( 17...Ne5=* 0.00/22 *18.Qh5 Ke7 )* 18.Nxe6! ]

[ 16...Ke7= 0.04/21 ]

**17.Ne2 Rfd8 18.Rd4!?**

[ In the game Kazhgaleyev - Kulaots/ Khanty-Mansyjsk (ol) 2010, White maintained somewhat the better chances after 18.Ng3 but perhaps it is less promising. After Kf8 19.Nh5 Black should have played Qxc3! (while *19...Qe5?!* 0.67/19 19...b5 0.17 led him into problems after *20.Rd4! Ke7! 21.Rbd1 )*]

**18...Kf8 19.Qh5 Ne5! 20.f4**

[Or 20.Qxh7 0.01/21 20.f4 0.49 Ke7! 21.Rxd8 *( 21.Qh6 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qc2! )* 21...Rxd8 22.Qh6 Against Rd2 b5 23.Qc1 Nd3 24.Qe3 Nc5 *( 24...Qc5?! 25.Rd1* Threatens to win with Nd4. *Qxe3 26.fxe3 )* 25.Nd4 Na4 26.Rc1 Qc5 planning ... b5-b4 with good counterplay. ]

[ 20.Qxh7 Ke7 21.Qh6 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qc2 ]

**20...Nd3 21.Qxh7 Rxd4 22.cxd4 Qc2!?** Strongly threatening ...Qc2!

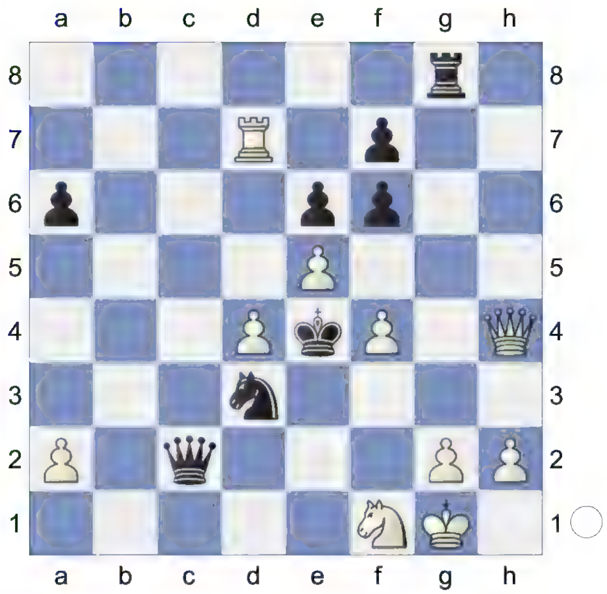
[ 22...Qc2!? 23.Qh8+□ Ke7 24.Rxb7+ Rc7 25.Rxc7+ Qxc7= ]

**23.Qh8+**

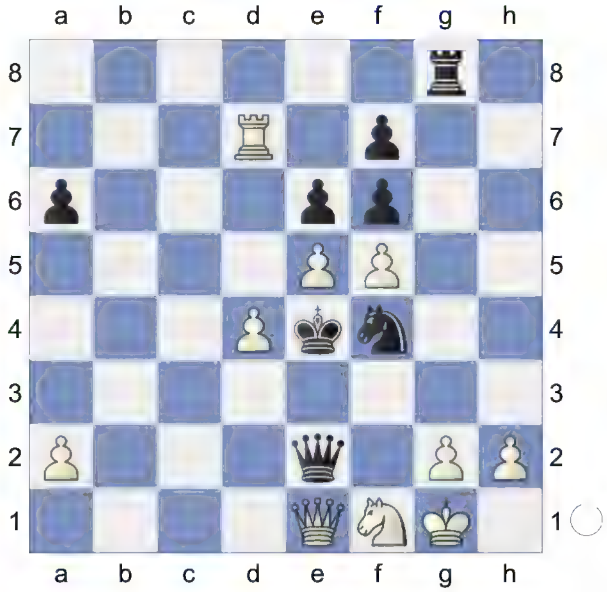
[ 23.Rxb7? Qd1# ]

**23...Ke7 24.Rxb7+** Hoping for h4! **24...Rc7!**

[In case of 24...Kd6? 2.74/18 24...Rc7 0.01 White has a very narrow path to the win: 25.e5+ Kd5 26.Rd7+ Ke4 27.Ng3+! *( 27.Qh7+?* -5.48/30 27.Ng3+ 2.56 *Ke3-+ )* 27...Ke3 ( -> ...Qf2+) 28.Nf1+! Ke4 29.Qh4! Inhibits Qf2+. Rg8 *( 29...f5?* 4.77/28 29...Rg8 2.50 *30.Qg3! )*



30.f5+! Nf4 31.Qe1+ Qe2 *( 31...Ne2+?* 5.13/20 31...Qe2 2.76 *32.Kf2 )*



32.Qxe2+! Nxe2+ 33.Kf2 Nxd4 34.fxe6 Nxe6 35.exf6+-

with a technically winning endgame. ]
**25.Rxc7+ Qxc7 26.Qh3 Qc2** aiming for ...Xd2. **27.Qf3 Qb1+ 28.Qf1 Qxa2** Black keeps good drawing chances thanks to his active pieces and passed a-pawn.

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/6**
■ **7 Bxc4 ... 10 Bb5+ Nbd7**
1 d4 d5 2 c4 08.04.2018
*[ChessPublishing.com]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 ( *14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);

B) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5 Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+** Nowadays this line is one of the main White attempts to gain some advantage. Here Black faces a dilemma. **10...Nbd7** This is the more risky approach. Black wins a pawn but White develops a rather annoying initiative. **11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4** Planning to develop the king's rook via h3.

[ 13.Nxe6?! allows White to get the pawn back but gives Black the time to consolidate his position. Qe5 ( Surely not *13...fxe6?? 14.Rc1 Qe5 15.Rxc8+!* )

A) 14.Ng7+?! Kf8 15.Bxd7 ( *15.Nf5?! Qxb5+ 16.Kg1 Qe5* ) 15...Bxd7 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Rg8 18.h4 Rg4 19.Rh3 Qxf5∓ gives Black a healthy extra pawn;

B) 14.Nd4 0-0! and White failed to disprove a common assessment of this position as being somewhat better for Black, Ponomariov - Ivanchuk/World Cup Khanty Mansiysk (7.2) 2011. ]

**13...a6**

[ 13...Qb4!? 14.Rb1 0.01/18 ( *14.Rh3 a6!* transposes to the mainline.; *14.Rh3±* 0.48/21 ) 14...Qd6!= 15.Rh3 a6 Karjakin,S-Aronian,L/Berlin GER 2018. ]

**14.Rh3** White has compensation. **14...Qb4**

[ 14...Qa5 15.Be2! is another line, which is known to be no less risky for

Black but perhaps still defendable. ]

**15.Be2 Ne5!?** This rare knight's jump was considered suspicious for Black but it is probably not so clear.

[ 15...Qd6 0.90/21 15...0-0 0.42 can be met with 16.Qa4!? ( *16.Rc1* -0.02/20 16.Rd3 0.79 is another possibility*)* 16...0-0 ...Nc5 is the strong threat. 17.Rd1≅ with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn, according to the tournament practice. ]

[ One of the critical positions arises after a common 15...0-0 was supposed to be a common option: 16.Rb1 Qd6 17.Rg3+ Kh8 18.Qd2 Rg8 It is necessary to swap a pair of rooks. ( *18...b5?* fails to *19.e5!→* with decisive attack*)* 19.Rbb3 Rxg3 20.Rxg3 A critical position for the assessment of the whole line. It is clear that White has got excellent compensation for the pawn but perhaps Black can still defend?!

**A)** 20...b5 deserves attention as well. However, the more advanced push does not bring Black real benefit: 21.Bf3! Ra7 ( *21...Bb7? 22.e5! Nxe5 23.Bxb7 Rd8 24.Qf4+-; 21...Rb8?! 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5 Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 25.Qg4↑* ) 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5 Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 25.Qg4 f5 and, despite the c4-square is not available, White can maintain his initiative by 26.Qg5 h6 27.Qg6 Rc7 28.Qxe6 and so on.;

**B)** 20...Qf8 can be well met with 21.Bh5 b5 22.Nc6↑ with a strong pressure;

**C)** an attempt to swap queens by 20...e5?? loses on the spot: 21.Qh6 Qf8 22.Nf5 Qxh6 23.Nxh6+-;

**D)** while 20...Nf8? is also bad for Black: 21.e5! Qd8 ( *21...fxe5? 22.Qg5+-* ) 22.Qh6 Ng6 23.Nf3! followed by h4-h5.;

**E)** 20...b6

**E1)** in the game Werle - Wells/ London 2008 White played weaker: 21.Bh5?! Bb7! 22.Bxf7 Rf8 23.e5!? ( *23.Bxe6 Nc5 24.Bf5 Nxe4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4* promised nothing*)* and here 23...Qxe5! was correct: 24.Bxe6 White wants to mate with Qh6! ( *24.Bxe6!? Nc5□ 25.Bf5=* ) 24...Nc5 White must now prevent ...hxg6! 25.Bf5 Ne4 ( or *25...Be4 26.Qh6 Rf7 27.Qd2 Rf8 28.Qh6 Rf7=; 25...Be4!? 26.Qh6□ Rf7=* ) 26.Qh6 Nxg3+ 27.fxg3 Rf7 28.Bxh7! Bd5 ( *28...Qxd4!? 29.Bg6+□ Kg8 30.Bxf7+ Kxf7 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qh8+ Kf7 33.Qh7+ Ke6 34.Qxb7 Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qd4+ 36.Ke2 Qc4+ 37.Kf3 Qf1+ 38.Ke3 Qe1+ 39.Kf3 Qf1+ 40.Ke3 Qe1+ 41.Kf4 Qf2+ 42.Qf3 Qxa2=* ) 29.Bg6+ Kg8 30.Bxf7+ Intending Xd8 and mate. Bxf7 with a probable draw;

**E2)** 21.Bf3! This strong manoeuvre poses serious problems for Black. 21...Ra7 ( *21...Bb7? 22.e5! Nxe5 23.Bxb7 Rd8 24.Qh6 Ng6 25.Nf3+-* ) 22.e5! fxe5 23.Qg5! Qf8 24.Nc6 f6 ( *24...Rc7?* 3.48/24 24…f6 1.30 *25.Ne7+-* ) 25.Qg4 (Not *25.Qg8+?* 0.01/5 25.Qg4 1.18 *Qxg8 26.Rxg8+ Kxg8 27.Nxa7* when Black escapes by *e4! 28.Bxe4 Nc5!=* )

25...f5 ( -> ...Xd2) 26.Qc4± 1.29/21 On the next move White captures on e6, securing a clear advantage. ( *26.Qg5!+- 2.20/23 h6 27.Qg6* )]

**16.Rb1!?**

[ 16.h5 takes g6-square under control but the idea to push Black's knight back does not work well:

A) 16...Bd7 17.Rb3 Qd6! 18.Rxb7 Rd8 19.Nb3 gives White a certain advantage;

B) as a rule, an early castling would only promote White's initiative in this line: 16...0-0 1.57/22 16...b5 0.18 17.Rb1 Qd6 2.22/23 ( *17...Qe7± 1.44/20* was necessary.) 18.Qd2→ and so on;

C) 16...Qd6!

C1) 17.Kg1?! -0.18/22 17.Rb3 0.25 Bd7 18.Rb1 Rd8 gave Black the better chances in the game Shulman - Naiditsch/ Montreal 2009: 19.Rc3! Wards off Qc5 ( the pawn on b7 was untouchable: *19.Rxb7??* -2.60/21 19.Rc3 0.00 *Bc6!* ) 19...b5 20.Rbc1 b4 and after 21.Rg3? Ke7 22.f4 Be8! Threatens to win with ...Qb6! 23.fxe5 fxe5∓ Black has got the piece back, securing material advantage;

C2) 17.Qd2!? Bd7 ( *17...Rg8?! 1.00/22* 17...Bd7 0.04 *18.Rd1! Bd7 19.Qb2↑; 17...Nc6?! 18.Rd3 Qh2! 19.f4⩲* ) 18.Qb2 Nc6!? 19.Rd1!? Nxd4 20.Rxd4 Qe5 with a good play for Black. ]

[ 16.Rc1!? 0.01/23 16.Rb1 0.46 deserved attention as well:

A) 16...0-0?! 1.15/22 16...Qd6 0.01 seems weaker: 17.Rb3 0.49/21 ( *17.Nf3!± 1.15/22* Strongly threatening Nxe5. *Ng6 18.Rg3* ) 17...Qe7 18.Qd2 Kh8 19.h5 with initiative;

B) 16...Qd6 17.Rc2!? with active play for the pawn. ]

[ 16.Rb3 has been tried in the game Borovikov - Drozdovskij/TUR-chT Konya 2010, which continued Qd6!

A) In case of 17.Qd2 Black could have solved his problems by Nc6! 18.Rd3 (the ending after *18.Rd1* And now Qh6! would win. *Nxd4 19.Qxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxd4 b5* was harmless for Black) 18...Qh2! 19.Rh3 Qe5 0.36/23 ( *19...Qd6= 0.00/24* deserves consideration. *20.Rd3 Qh2* ) 20.Rd3 0.00/27 ( *20.Nc2⩲ 0.36/23* ) 20...Qh2!= with a repetition of moves.;

B) 17.a4!? deserved attention, stopping ... b7-b5. However, Black seemed to be fine after 0-0;

C) 17.Rc1 b5 18.Qd2 ( *18.Rbc3 Bb7 19.f4 Nc4* was fine for Black. Then it would be a repetition again: *20.Bxc4 bxc4 21.e5 fxe5 22.fxe5 Qd5 23.Qa4+ Kf8 24.Qb4+ Ke8=* ) 18...Bb7 with good play for Black. ]

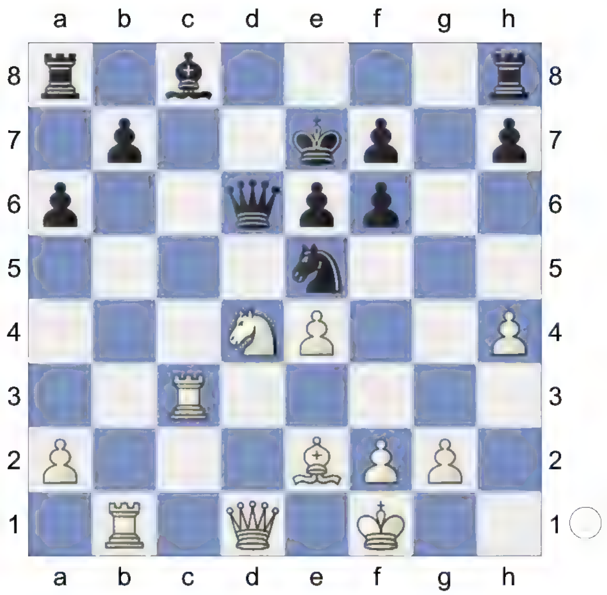
**16...Qd6 17.Rb2!?**

[In case of 17.Rc3 Black would have thought about

A) after 17...Ke7? 1.79/21 17...Nc6 0.36

(Diagram)

18.f4 0.49/21 ( *18.Qd2!+- 1.79/21* ) 18...Nd7? 2.67/19 ( *18...Ng6⩲ 0.49/21* ) 19.Qd2+- Rd8 20.Rd1 he faces problems;



**B)** 17...b5! with unclear play. For example, 18.Qd2 0.15/18 ( *18.Nb3!? Qxd1+! 19.Rxd1=∞; 18.Qc2!± 0.55/23* might be stronger. *Bd7 19.Rd1* ) 18...Bd7= 19.Qe3∞ and so on ]

[ 17.h5?! -0.01/20 17.Rc3 0.42 b5 18.Qd2 Bb7 19.f4? -1.87/22 (White should try *19.Rd1!∓* -0.47/18 ) 19...Rd8! is bad for White. ]

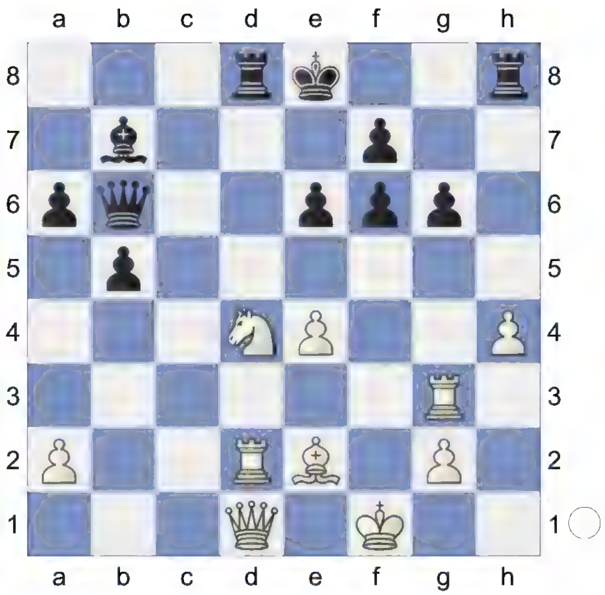
[ White would also think about such options as 17.a4!? with compensation for the pawn but it requires more analysis. ]

**17...b5** The position is equal. **18.Rd2 Qc7!**

[in case of 18...Qb6 19.Rg3 Prevents Rg8 Bb7 20.f4! White's chances looks preferable: Ng6! aiming for ...Qc7! 21.f5 Rd8! 0.82/18 ( *21...Nxh4?* 2.94/21 21...e5 0.31 *22.Rh3; 21...e5!=* 0.21/20 ) 22.fxg6± hxg6

(Diagram)

23.h5! but Black still keeps reasonable counter chances. ]



**19.a4**

[Here 19.Rg3 Bb7 20.f4? -2.52/20 ( *20.a4=* -0.09/19 and White has nothing to worry.) 20...Ng6 was simply bad for White ]

**19...b4∞** 0.41/17 The position is very complicated. White keeps sufficient compensation for a pawn but Black has also got something to be satisfied with. Weighted Error Value: White=0.06 (flawless) /Black=0.00 (flawless)

[ 19...Bd7= 0.00/18 ]

**D39**

☐ **Aronian,Levon**
■ **Caruana,Fabiano**
21: FIDE Candidates 2018
*[Cyrus Lakdawala]*

Okay, we're out of chronological sequence here, since this game was actually played six rounds before our previous one.

**1.d4** Paunovic,Tomislav Yermolinsky, Alex **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4** The Vienna line of the Queen's Gambit is the height of fashion these days. Yermolinsky,A: 'Interesting ploy from Caruana. He goes for the Vienna Variation, the line championed by Aronian himself.'Yermolinsky,A: 'Interesting ploy from Caruana. He goes for the Vienna Variation, the line championed by Aronian himself.'

[ Black's numerous alternatives include 4...Be7 ]
[ 4...c6 ]
[ 4...Bb4 ]
[and 4...c5 . ]

**5.e4** This move turns it into a pure Vienna;

[whereas 5.e3 shifts the game to Queen's Gambit Accepted lines after a6 6.Bxc4 *(or 6.a4 c5 )* 6...b5 . ]

**5...Bb4 6.Bg5**

[ Later on (Game 31) we'll see Caruana try the speculative gambit 6.Bxc4 as White. ]

**6...h6**

[ After Yermolinsky,A: 'Karjakin-Aronian from earlier in this tournament, and countless other games, saw' Yermolinsky,A: 'Karjakin-Aronian from earlier in this tournament, and countless other games, saw' 6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Nbd7 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 13.h4 Qb4 14.Rh3 , White has full attacking compensation for the pawn, W.So-L. Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2017. ]

**7.Bxf6** White is forced to part with the bishop pair.

[ 7.Bh4? isn't much of an option since g5 either wins White's e-pawn or forces him into a dubious piece sacrifice on g5. ]

**7...Qxf6** Yermolinsky,A: 'This line didn't use to be so hot until lately, when the efforts of Nisipeanu, Pelletier and Vallejo Pons finally gained recognition.' Yermolinsky,A: 'This line didn't use to be so hot until lately, when the efforts of Nisipeanu, Pelletier and Vallejo Pons finally gained recognition.' **8.Bxc4**

QUESTION: Who got the better of the deal in the opening?

ANSWER: For giving up the bishop pair White has a lead in development and central control. Chances are probably very slightly in White's favour at this stage, although Black can also be satisfied with the opening, since he too gets dynamic chances.

[ Yermolinsky,A: 'The almost forgotten idea' The almost forgotten idea 8.Qa4+ Yermolinsky,A: 'makes some sense here. At least the black c-pawn won't be able to hit the white centre right away. After'makes some sense here. At least the black c-pawn won't be able to hit the white centre right away. After Nc6 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.0-0 Bd7 11.Qb3 Ba5 12.Rad1 Bb6 13.e5 Qe7 14.Qc2 Nb4 15.Qe2 Bc6 16.a3 Yermolinsky,A: 'White is hoping to translate his spatial gains into something meaningful.'White is hoping to translate his spatial gains into something meaningful. ]

**8...c5** This is considered more combative than castling. White's centre must be broken up, even if it means a slight opening of the position when Black lags in development.

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Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!' This is considered more combative than castling. White's centre must be

broken up, even if it means a slight opening of the position when Black lags in development.
This is considered more combative than castling. White's centre must be broken up, even if it means a slight opening of the position when Black lags in development.
Yermolinsky,A: '!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!'
**9.0-0** Yermolinsky,A: 'White states his intention to play for quick development.' Yermolinsky,A: 'White states his intention to play for quick development.'

[ Yermolinsky,A: 'Alternatively,' Alternatively, 9.e5 Qd8 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 cxd4 12.cxd4 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qd3 b6 Yermolinsky,A: 'would lead to a standard pawn structure Kramnik doesn't mind defending as Black.' would lead to a standard pawn structure Kramnik doesn't mind defending as Black. ]

**9...cxd4 10.e5** The pawn on e5 ensures White attacking chances against Black's king, who will almost certainly castle short. **10...Qd8 11.Ne4!?** The most principled move is to not bother recapturing Black's d4-pawn.

[Instead, 11.Nxd4 0-0 12.Qg4 Qc7 13.Ndb5!? (I don't have such great confidence in this pawn sacrifice) Qxe5 14.Rae1 Qc5 15.Re3 was P.Tregubov-A.Wirig, French League 2010. I don't believe in White's attack after a6 16.Rg3 Qg5 17.Qe4 Qe7 18.Nc7 Qxc7 19.Bd3 f5 20.Qxb4 Nc6 . It feels like Black should consolidate. ]

**11...0-0 12.Qe2** Aronian is a specialist in this position, but from Black's side. Here he feels confident enough to try it as White.
**12...Be7**

[Here 12...Bd7 Paunovic,Tomislav: '-109/(259)' 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.a3 ( *or 14.Ng3 Bc5 15.a3 Ne7 16.Ne4 Bb6 17.Nxd4 Ng6 18.Qh5 Qh4! 19.Qxh4 Nxh4* , when Black's bishop pair gave him the edge in the ending, Ding Liren-L.Aronian, FIDE World Cup, Tbilisi 2017 *)* 14...Be7 15.b4 Qb8 16.Ng3 b5! was Grischuk-Aronian, Linares 2010. Chances look close to balanced after 17.Bxb5 Nxe5 18.Bxd7 Nxd7 19.Nxd4 . ]

[ 12...Qb6 (Paunovic,Tomislav) - 109/(259) ]

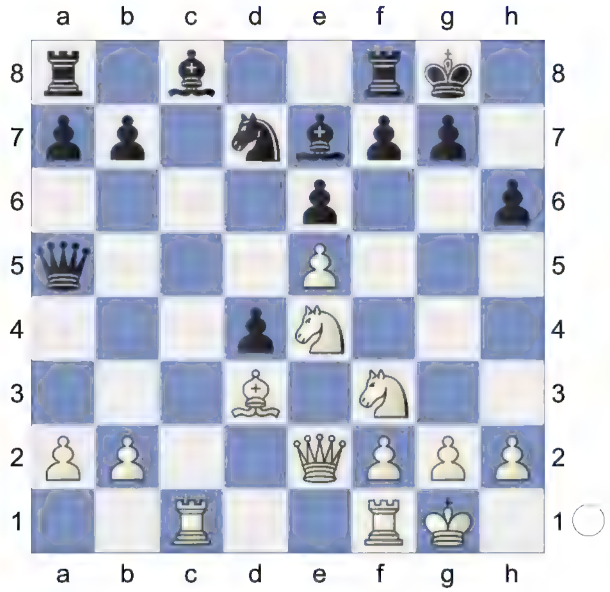
**13.Rad1** The other rook may post on e1. **13...Qc7 14.Bd3** This move is new. 'Paunovic,Tomislav: 'N''

[ 14.Ng3 Rd8 15.Nh5!? *( 15.Nxd4 is a lot safer)* 15...g6! 16.Nf4 Nc6 17.Qe4 Bf8 18.h4 Bg7 19.Rfe1 Bd7 20.Bd3 Be8 was A.Moiseenko-G. Meier, Jerusalem 2017, where I prefer Black's extra pawn and bishop pair over White's kingside chances. ]

[ Yermolinsky,A: 'A straight-forward pawn sac' A straight-forward pawn sac 14.Nd6 Bxd6 15.exd6 Qxd6 16.Rxd4 Qe7 17.Rfd1 Nc6 18.Rd6 Yermolinsky,A: 'may succeed but only in blitz. 'may succeed but only in blitz. ]

**14...Nd7** Yermolinsky,A: 'This move underlines a general problem with White's concept: his e5-pawn is insufficiently protected due to the absence of his dark-squared bishop. Granted, Black is behind in development, but his kingside defences are quite solid.'Yermolinsky,A: 'This move underlines a general problem with White's concept: his e5-pawn is insufficiently protected due to the absence of his dark-squared bishop.

Granted, Black is behind in development, but his kingside defences are quite solid. ' **15.Rc1 Qa5** Yermolinsky,A: '



' Yermolinsky,A: '[#]' **16.g4!?** To my mind Aronian 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '?!'' is the biggest risk-taker of the top ten in the world. Here he plays a crazy advance to complicate with a line right on the edge of playable. Since he was in a poor tournament position, he may have interpreted this game as a kind of last stand for his chances in the Candidates.

QUESTION: Isn't this just a suicidal weakening by White, deserving a double question mark, rather than an interesting mark?

ANSWER: No. To a lazy person the word “immediately” means some time in the next few days or weeks to come. To a person with purpose, it means right now. While this move is objectively incorrect, from a practical perspective it's quite nightmarish since the position becomes completely irrational and Caruana now faces baffling defensive challenges to keep White's coming kingside attack in check. To my mind

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To my mind Aronian is the biggest risk-taker of the top ten in the world. Here he plays a crazy advance to complicate with a line right on the edge of playable. Since he was in a poor tournament position, he may have interpreted this game as a kind of last stand for his chances in the Candidates.

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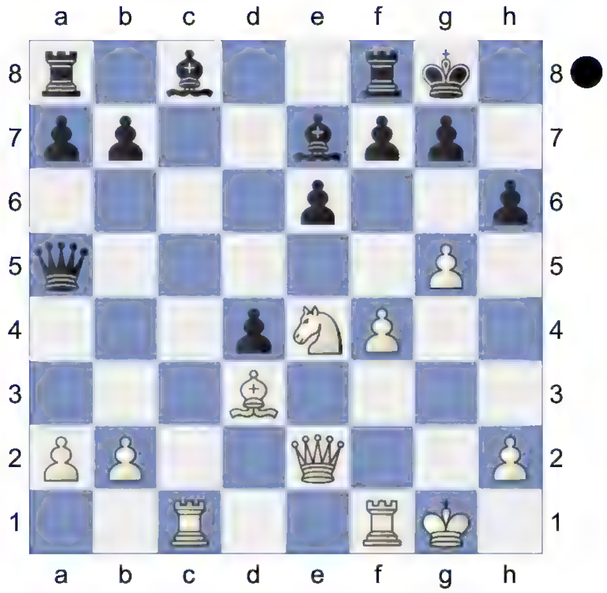
[ White doesn't get much if he plays it more sedately with 16.Ned2 (intending Qe4) Nc5 17.Nb3 Nxb3 18.axb3 g6 19.Qe4 Qb6 20.Nh4! Bxh4 21.Qxh4 h5 22.Qg5 Qd8 23.Qh6 Bd7 , when White can either sacrifice on g6 and take a draw, or play on with another move, such as f2-f4. ]

[ 16.Ng3 Nc5 ( *16...Rd8* Paunovic, Tomislav *17.Qe4 Nf8∞* ) 17.Bb1 d3 Yermolinsky,A: 'forces White to part with the bishop, effectively ending his attacking chances.'forces White to part with the bishop, effectively ending his attacking chances. 18.Qe3∞ Paunovic,Tomislav ]

**16...Nxe5 17.Nxe5 Qxe5 18.f4 Qa5 19.g5!** This is the point o'Paunovic, Tomislav: 'Diagram



'' f Aronian's idea. His forces storm Caruana's slightly underdefended king, while Black's queenside isn't even developed.

This is the point of Aronian's idea. His forces storm Caruana's slightly underdefended king, while Black's queenside isn't even developed.

**19...Qd8** The computer's eval'Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!'' uation goes down after this natural move. The computer's evaluation goes down after this natural move. Yermolinsky,A: '?!' '?!' Yermolinsky,A: 'Caruana shows his willingness to put up a tough defence.' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?!' The computer's evaluation goes down after this natural move. The computer's evaluation goes down after this natural move. Yermolinsky,A: '?!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?!' Yermolinsky,A: 'Caruana shows his willingness to put up a tough defence.'

[Better is 19...g6! 20.h4 ( after *20.gxh6 Kh7* Black's king is safe and his structural advantage is decisive Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ∓') 20...hxg5! (pushing past with *20...h5* allows White Ng3 and Nxh5 sacrificial ideas ) 21.hxg5 (or *21.fxg5 Bd7 22.h5 Bc6! 23.hxg6 Bxe4! 24.gxf7+ Rxf7 25.Bxe4 Qxg5+ 26.Bg2 Bf6 27.Qxe6 Kg7* and Black has the safer king and an extra pawn) 21...Kg7! 22.Nf6 Qd8 23.Ng4 Bd6 24.Qe4 Rh8 25.Qxd4+ e5! 26.fxe5 Be7 and the coming ending will be in Black's favour. ]

[ Yermolinsky,A: 'There's something to be said in favour of the counter-attacking plan'There's something to be said in favour of the counter-attacking plan 19...Bd7 20.gxh6 Rfc8 ( Yermolinsky,A: 'Fabiano must have seen' Fabiano must have seen *20...g6 21.Nc5!? Bxc5 22.Qe5 f6 23.Qxc5 Qxc5 24.Rxc5* Yermolinsky,A: 'and found this endgame troublesome.' and found this endgame troublesome. *Be8* Paunovic,Tomislav *25.Rfc1 Kh7 26.Rc7+ Kxh6 27.Rxb7∓* ) 21.hxg7 ( *21.b4!* Paunovic,Tomislav *Qd5 22.Rxc8+ Rxc8 23.hxg7∞* ) 21...Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Bc6 Yermolinsky,A: 'but leaving his king without shelter is unnerving.'but leaving his king without shelter is unnerving. ]

**20.h4**

[ After the game Aronian suggested 20.Rf3? and liked his chances. The comps disagree and prefer Black after hxg5 21.Rh3 g6 22.fxg5 Bxg5 23.Rf1 Be3+ 24.Kh1 f5! 25.Qg2 Kg7 26.Rg3 Rf6 27.Nxf6 Qxf6 , since White's attack is a thing of the past and Black has too much for the exchange. ]

**20...Bd7** Perhaps application of the principle: Counter in the centre when assaulted on the wing applies here.

[After 20...f5! (disruption of White's attack is more important than completion of development) Paunovic, Tomislav: '!?'21.gxf6 Bxf6 Black holds the better chances. ]

**21.gxh6 g6 22.h5!** Aronian does his be'Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ∞" st to rip open Caruana's king's cover. Aronian does his best to rip open Caruana's king's cover.

**22...Kh8! 23.Kh2?!** Aronian refuses to tame his unruly tendencies and overpresses. Yermolinsky,A: 'Aronian just couldn't stop. Clearly, he was thinking attack, when in reality White should be looking to escape with a draw.' Yermolinsky,A: 'Aronian just couldn't stop. Clearly, he was thinking attack, when in reality White should be looking to escape with a draw.'

[ Objectively he had to settle for Yermolinsky,A: 'The obvious' Yermolinsky,A: 'The obvious' 23.hxg6 Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ⌓' fxg6 24.Nc5 Yermolinsky,A: 'offers White compensation, albeit Black can survive:' Yermolinsky,A: 'offers White compensation, albeit Black can survive:' Bxc5 ( *24...Rc8* Yermolinsky, A: 'etc.' Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ∞'etc. ) 25.Rxc5 Bc6 26.Rg5 Qf6 27.Qe5 , when the game will probably end in a draw. ]

**23...Bc6 24.Rf3?!** 'Paunovic,Tomislav:

'?!"

[Here 24.hxg6 was necessary. ]

[ 24.Rf2 Paunovic,Tomislav ]

**24...Bd6** Black holds an edge after this move, but it isn't the best. Black holds an edge after this move, but it isn't the best. Yermolinsky,A: '!' '!' Yermolinsky,A: 'The engines may not rate this move as the strongest, but from a human point of view it's more than good enough. Caruana's play is very consistent.' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!' Black holds an edge after this move, but it isn't the best. Black holds an edge after this move, but it isn't the best. Yermolinsky,A: '!' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!'Yermolinsky,A: 'The engines may not rate this move as the strongest, but from a human point of view it's more than good enough. Caruana's play is very consistent.'

[ Far stronger was the powerful centralization with 24...Qd5! Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ⌓' 25.Rh3 g5! 26.Rg1 f6! 27.Rhg3 Rad8 , White is busted, since if he tries to open lines with 28.fxg5 fxg5 29.Nxg5? it will backfire after Bd6 . ]

**25.Qf2**

[Komodo likes 25.Kh3! . ]

**25...Bc7**

[ 25...Bxe4!? Paunovic,Tomislav 26.Qxd4+ e5 27.Qxe4 f5 *( 27...Qh4+ 28.Rh3 Qxf4+ 29.Qxf4 exf4∓ )* 28.Qe1 Qf6∓ ]

**26.Kh3** 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!" **26...Qe7**

[ 26...gxh5 27.Rg3 f5 Yermolinsky,A: 'Again, the engines try to lead us astray.' Again, the engines try to lead us astray. 28.Nc5=∞ Paunovic, Tomislav ]

**27.Ng5?!** 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '?"

[ 27.Rg1! keeps Black's advantage to a minimum. ]

**27...e5** A principled move, 'Paunovic, Tomislav: '?!'' opening lines for his bishops. A principled move, opening lines for his bishops.

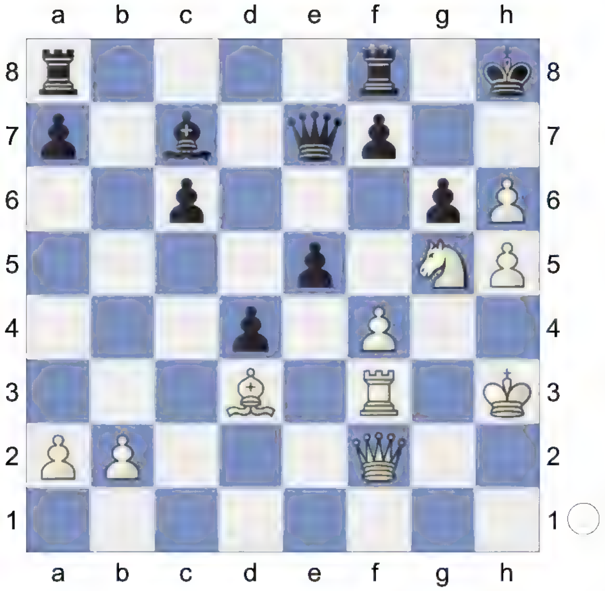
[ The comp found the completely counter-intuitive line 27...gxh5!! Paunovic,Tomislav: '!?' 28.Rxc6 bxc6 29.Qxd4+ e5 30.Qe4 f5 31.Qxc6 e4 32.Qc3+ Be5! 33.fxe5 Rac8 34.Bc4 exf3 35.e6+ Rf6 , when White doesn't have enough for the two sacrificed exchanges. This is fair enough, but which human among us is capable of finding all of Black's weird defensive moves? The answer is that nobody but a computer can pull this off. ]

**28.Rxc6!** Black's bishop was 'Paunovic, Tomislav: ' □" his most powerful piece, so this exchange sacrifice re-energizes White's attack. Black's bishop was his most powerful piece, so this exchange sacrifice re-energizes White's attack. Yermolinsky,A: '!?' '!?' Yermolinsky,A: 'Probably, the best chance, although White cannot count on more than a draw in all lines.' Yermolinsky,Alex : '!?' Black's bishop was his most powerful piece, so this exchange sacrifice re-energizes White's attack. Black's bishop was his most powerful piece, so this exchange sacrifice re-energizes White's attack. Yermolinsky,A: '!?' Yermolinsky, Alex : '!?'Yermolinsky,A: 'Probably, the best chance, although White cannot count on more than a draw in all lines.'

**28...bxc6** 'Paunovic,Tomislav: 'Diagram

(Diagram)

" **29.Nxf7+!** Aronian keeps givin'Paunovic,Tomislav: '!" g away his own material but by doing so ruthlessly



strips away the black king's cover. This is White's best practical chance, since he gets two viciously deep passers for his sacrificed rook.

Aronian keeps giving away his own material but by doing so ruthlessly strips away the black king's cover. This is White's best practical chance, since he gets two viciously deep passers for his sacrificed rook.

**29...Rxf7 30.hxg6 Rf6?!** This move throws aw'Paunovic,Tomislav: '?!'' ay his winning chances if White responds correctly. This move throws away his winning chances if White responds correctly. Yermolinsky,A: '?' '?' Yermolinsky,A: 'Fabiano's only mistake in the overall very solidly played game.' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?' This move throws away his winning chances if White responds correctly. This move throws away his winning chances if White responds correctly. Yermolinsky,A: '?' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?'Yermolinsky,A: 'Fabiano's only mistake in the overall very solidly played game.'

[ Yermolinsky,A: 'He must have rejected' Yermolinsky,A: 'He must have rejected' 30...Rxf4! was best and after Yermolinsky,A: 'on account of' Yermolinsky,A: 'on account of' 31.Rxf4 exf4 32.Qxd4+ Qe5 33.g7+ Kg8 34.Bc4+ Kh7 35.Qd3+ Kxh6 36.g8Q Rxg8 37.Bxg8 Yermolinsky, A: 'and indeed, it seemed White could survive, but only until Black finds' Yermolinsky,A: 'and indeed, it seemed White could survive, but only until Black finds' Qh8! 38.Bb3 Kg5+ 39.Kg2 Qxb2+ , Black has decent chances to avoid perpetual check and convert his two extra pawns. 40.Bc2 Qf6 Yermolinsky,A: 'with decent winning chances.' Paunovic,Tomislav: '∓' with decent winning chances. ]

**31.g7+** White should now hold the draw, seeing as his passed pawns so gravely endanger Black's king.

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Yermolinsky,A: '?' '?' Yermolinsky,A: 'In time trouble Levon misses his chance.' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?' White should now hold the draw, seeing as his passed pawns so gravely endanger Black's king.

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Yermolinsky,A: '?' Yermolinsky,Alex : '?' Yermolinsky,A: 'In time trouble Levon misses his chance.'

[ 31.Qh4!! Paunovic,Tomislav: '!?' Qe6+ *( 31...e4 32.Bxe4 Qe6+* Paunovic,Tomislav *33.f5 Qd6 34.Kg2⇄ )* 32.f5 Qe7 33.Be4 Yermolinsky,A: 'would lead to a crazy position. Black is up a whole rook, but, positionally speaking, White is doing just fine. 'would lead to a crazy position. Black is up a whole rook, but, positionally speaking, White is doing just fine. ( *33.Rf2* Paunovic,Tomislav *e4 34.Bc4∞* )]

**31...Kg8** EXERCISE (critical decision): White can play 32 Bc4+ or 32 Qh4. In one line he holds his own, while in the other he loses. Which one would you play?

**32.Bc4+?** The natural move is'Paunovic, Tomislav: '?'' the wrong one. Now White's attack is no more than a shadow in a dream. How do we not think of a check, which is directly in our face? There is only so much luck involved in a chess game. In this case Caruana gets his final share of it, as Aronian stumbles. The natural move is the wrong one. Now White's attack is no more than a shadow in a dream. How do we not think of a check, which is directly in our face? There is only so much luck involved in a chess game. In this case Caruana gets his final share of it, as Aronian stumbles.

[ ANSWER: Aronian could save the game with Yermolinsky,A: 'Again,' Yermolinsky,A: 'Again,' 32.Qh4! Paunovic,Tomislav: ' ∞!' Qe6+ 33.f5 Qd6 34.Bc4+ Kh7 35.g8Q+ Rxg8 36.Bxg8+ Kh8! (not *36...Kxg8?? 37.Qg5+ Kf8 38.Qg7+ Ke8 39.h7 Rh6+ 40.Kg2 e4 41.h8R+ Rxh8 42.Qxh8+* and Black must play 42... Qf8 and swap queens into a losing ending, since *Kf7?? 43.Rh3* is curtains) 37.Be6 Qf8 38.Kg2 Rxh6 39.Qe4 and White stands no worse. ]

**32...Kh7** 'Paunovic,Tomislav: '-+'' **33.Qh4 e4 34.Rg3 Bxf4!** Caruana returns the entire rook to gain a safe king and a winning position. **35.g8Q+ Rxg8 36.Bxg8+ Kh8 37.Rg7**

[ 37.Rg6 Qd7+! 38.Qg4 Qxg4+ 39.Rxg4 d3 is also hopeless for White. ]

**37...Qf8!** . White's threats evaporated, while Black threatens ...Rxh6, as well as the intent to push his central passers to their promotion squares. **38.Rh7+ Kxg8** 0-1 (38) Aronian,L (2794)-Caruana,F (2784) Berlin 2018 CBM 184 [Yermolinsky,A] 0-1 (38) Aronian,L-Caruana,F 21: FIDE Candidates, Berlin 2018 Caruana MBM [Cyrus Lakdawala] Paunovic,Tomislav: '0-1 (38) Aronian,L (2794)-Caruana,F (2784) Berlin (ct) 136/138 2018 Chess Informant 149 [Paunovic,Tomislav]'

**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Norri,Joose** **2426**

■ **Hjelm,Niclas** **2313**

Helsinki (10) 03.07.2002

*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

One of the main lines has been tested in this game. White sacrifices a pawn but gets all his pieces into play. Then in most cases Black leaves his h7-pawn to the mercy of fate but completes development and places his queen on a very strong position in the center. White is usually counting on his passed h-pawn and if Black is not able to find counterplay then he might face real problems, as can be seen in this game. D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 e6 5.e4 Bb4**

[ 5...c5 6.d5 a6 7.a4 Be7 ( *7...exd5 8.exd5 Bd6 9.Bxc4 Qe7+ 10.Be2 b6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.Re1 Qd8 14.Ne4 Qc7 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.Bc4 Bb7 17.Qd2 Rfe8 18.Bf4*

*Qf8 19.h3* 1-0 9.♗e3 ♗c5 10.♕e2 0-0 (1951)-Mukhin,E (1683) SU ch Baku 1961 (5.21)) 8.d6 Bf8 9.Bxc4 Nc6 10.e5 Ng4 11.Qe2 Bxd6 12.exd6 Qxd6 13.Ne4 Qe7 14.h3 Nge5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Bf4 Nxc4 17.Qxc4 e5 18.Bg5 f6 19.Be3 b6 20.Qd5 1-0 (23) Tratar,M (2360)-Hribar,A (1705) SLO-ch U20 Slovenia 1994 ]

**6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Queen'S Gambit Accepted-Queen'S Gambit Accepted ]

[ 6.Bf4 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Nb5 Bd7 Chapter-Games Chapter 2 (2) ]

[ 6.e5 Ne4 7.Qc2 Qd5 8.Be2 b5 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 Bb7 11.a4 a6 12.Ba3 Nd7 13.Rfe1 f5 14.Nh4 c5 15.Rad1 cxd4 16.Rxd4 Qxe5 17.Bf1 D 24/01 2003 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5 13.h4 Ke7**

[ 13...Bd7 is a bit slow: 14.Rh3 Nc6?! *( 14...a6!? )* 15.Nb5 Ne5 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Nxb7 Qb6 18.Rb3 Ba4 19.Rxb6 Bxd1 20.Rbb1± with a big advantage in the endgame, Dreev - Cs.Horvath, EU-ch U20 1988. ]

**14.Rh3 Nc6 15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Rd3**

A critical position for this line is reached. White sacrificed a pawn but has got all his pieces into play. If Black attempts to do the same it usually costs him his h7-pawn but in most cases he gets sufficient counter chances. Yet White's chances still seem to be slightly better.

[ 16.Rhc3!? is a very rare but interesting option: Rd8 17.Qf3

**A)** or 17...Rd4 18.Bb3 -0.59/21 *( 18.Qe3= -0.03/23 Rxc4 19.Rxc4 )* 18...Bd7 0.00/22 *( 18...Bb7∓ -0.59/21 )* 19.Rc5 Qb4 20.R5c4 Rxc4 21.Rxc4 Qb5 0.00/24 *( 21...Qd2∓ -0.47/21 )* 22.Kg1= a5 23.Qc3 a4 24.Bc2 a3 25.Bb3=∞ and White has maintained his good compensation for the pawn, Delemarre - Cs.Horvath, Haarlem 1995;

**B)** 17...Rd4= -0.07/22 keeps the balance.;

**C)** 17...Ba6 0.81/20 18.Bxa6± Qxa6+ 19.Qe2 0.00/30 *( 19.Kg1!?* deserved attention; White should try *19.Kg1⩲* 0.60/27 *Rd6 20.e5 fxe5 21.Qe4 )* 19...Qxe2+= 20.Kxe2 Rd4 21.Ke3 with slight pressure but the endgame is certainly drawish, Zubov - Harikrishna, WCh U20 Nakhchivan 2003. ]

**16...Rb8 17.Kg1 Rd8**

[ Other options do not solve the problems: 17...Rb2?! 18.Bb3 0.06/24 *( 18.Qf3!⩲ 0.64/21 )* 18...Qb6 19.Qf3 Ba6 20.Rdc3↑ , S.Savchenko - Yudasin, URS-FL56 Simferopol 1988 ]

[or 17...Rb7?! 18.Bb3 Bd7 0.72/20 *( 18...Rd7=* 0.30/22 might be stronger. *)* 19.Qg4↑ 0.22/19 , Dreev - Giorgadze, Barnaul 1988 - with the initiative in both games. *( 19.Qf3±* 0.72/20 *)*]

[ 17...Rb4? 0.97/19 17...Rb2 0.21 is even worse: 18.Qd2! Ra4 19.Qe3 Rd8 20.Bb3! Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Qa6 22.Qe3 Ra5 23.Rd1± with a clear advantage as Black's pieces are badly placed. However, in the game Topalov - Fogarasi, Arnhem 1989 a draw was agreed here. ]

[ 17...Rb2 feels hotter. 18.Qf3 Rg8

19.Rcd1 Rb4 ]

**18.Rxd8** 0.00/24

[Better is 18.e5!± 0.53/24 Rxd3 19.exf6+ Kxf6 20.Qxd3 *( 20.Bxd3 Rb2= )*]

**18...Qxd8=** The position is equal.

**19.Qh5 Qd4**

[ 19...Rb2!? is rather interesting. The game Huzman - S.Savchenko, Kherson 1989 continued. Threatens to win with ...Qd4. 20.Qc5+ Ke8 21.Qxa7 Qb6 Against Bb3 22.Qxb6 Rxb6± with a slightly better, but drawish endgame for White: 23.Bb3 e5 24.Rc3 Be6 25.Kf1 Ke7 26.Ke2 Bxb3 27.axb3 Rb4 28.Ke3 c5 and here a draw was agreed. ]

**20.Bb3**

[ 20.Qxh7? Rb2 21.Kh2 Qxf2-+ ]

**20...Rb4!?** Black has to play actively.

[In case of 20...Bd7 White gets better chances by

A) 21.Rd1 is less promising: Qe5!? *(or 21...Qxe4!?* White must now prevent ...Rb5. *22.Qc5+ Ke8 23.Qxa7 Rd8∞* with unclear play*)* 22.Qxh7 c5! 23.Qh6! *( 23.Rxd7+?!* -0.54/23 23.Qh6 0.00 *Kxd7 24.Qxf7+ Kd6∓* Vegh - W.Schoen, Budapest 1989*)* 23...Bc6∓ and Black was already better in the game Bouaziz - Tischbierek, Berlin 1991;

B) 21.Qxh7 f5! 22.Qh6 *( 22.Rd1 Qf6 )* 22...Rh8! 23.Qg5+ Qf6 24.exf5 Rxh4 25.Qxf6+ Kxf6 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Rc5± but Black still keeps reasonable drawing chances thanks to the lack of pawns on the board. ]

[ 20...Qxe4 does not solve the problems completely:. And now ...Rb5 would win. 21.Qc5+ Ke8 22.Qxa7 Rb7 *( in the game Gleizerov - Sorokin, Voronezh 1988 after 22...Rb4 23.Qa8 Kd8! 24.Qa5+ Ke8 25.Qa8 Kd8!* a draw was agreed but White could still maintain somewhat better chances by *26.g3!?± )* 23.Qa8 Rc7 and here in the game Shabtai - G. Flear, Tel Aviv 1989 White could have maintained his initiative by 24.Qb8!?↑ ]

**21.Qxh7**

[ The c6-pawn is not very important: 21.Rxc6 Bd7 22.Rc7 *( after the dubious 22.Rc1?! Qe5! 23.Qxe5! fxe5 24.f3 a5∓* Black got the better chances in the game L.Ostrowski - S. Ivanov, Bydgoszcz 1990*)* 22...Qxe4!? *( 22...Qd6 23.Rxa7 Rxe4 24.Qa5!±* was still slightly better for White in the game Dreev - Yudasin, Simferopol 1988. Prevents Re1+*)* 23.g3 *( 23.Qc5+ Ke8 )* 23...Ke8!? 24.Qa5 Qe1+ 25.Kg2 Qe4+ 26.Kh2 Rb7∞ and Black looks fine. ]

**21...Bd7**

[ 21...Qxe4!? is also worthy of consideration. After 22.Qxe4 Rxe4 23.Rxc6 Bd7 24.Rc4 f5 25.Rxe4 fxe4 26.g4 f6 0.39/34 *( 26...Kf6=* 0.02/30 *)* 27.Kg2± e5 28.Bd1 Kf7± Black has held this worse endgame in Khenkin - Yakovich, Podolsk 1989. ]

**22.Qh5** Repels Qe5 **22...Qxe4?!** This capture creates unnecessary problems.

[ 22...Qe5! 0.85/21 22...c5 0.24 23.Qxe5 fxe5± should have been preferred. White's advantage in such an endgame is beyond doubt but Black can probably neutralise the passed h-pawn with his king. ]

[ 22...c5 simplifies 23.Qxc5+ Qxc5 24.Rxc5 Rxe4 25.Rc4 f5 ]

**23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.Qxa7±** Rd1 would now be deadly. **24...Rd4** 1.86/19

[ 24...Qxh4?? 3.93/31 24...c5 0.01 was losing instantly: 25.Rd1 Bc8 26.Qc7+- and it means Black cannot eliminate White's passed pawn. Meanwhile, his king has become vulnerable and it certainly increases White's chances. ]

[ 24...c5!= 0.01/23 25.Qxc5 Qxh4 ]

**25.h5+- Kf8?!** 2.14/20

[ 25...Qf4! was stronger, stopping the h-pawn. ]

[ 25...Qf4 1.72/22 was necessary. 26.Rb1 Rd6 ]

**26.h6 Qf4?!** 5.50/21 It seems Black has already lost control over the situation - he does not know what to do with White's pawn!

[ 26...Qe5! was already the only way to stay in the game. ]

[ 26...Qe5 1.90/23 is a better chance. 27.a4 Be8 ]

**27.Rc3**

[ 27.Qc5+! was much simpler: Qd6 *( 27...Kg8 28.Rc3!+- )* 28.h7! Kg7 29.Qh5 Qf8 30.Rc3 Kh8 31.Rg3+- ]

**27...Re4 28.Re3** 1.25/20 A logical move but not the best.

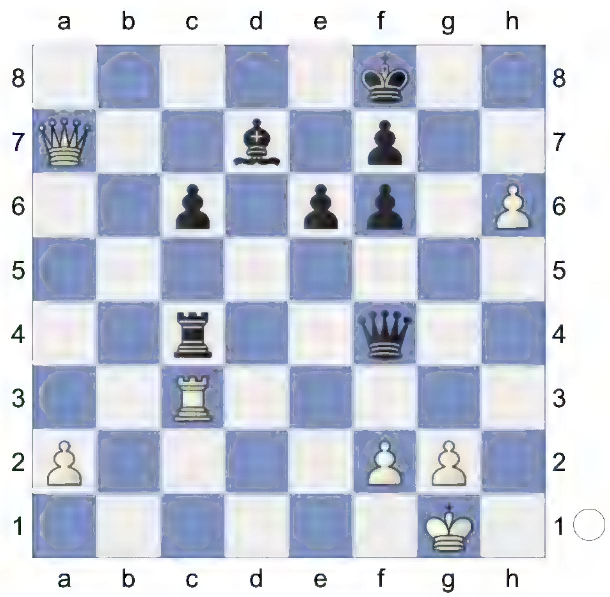
[ 28.Bc4! was a rather spectacular way to prove a decisive advantage. After getting his bishop back into play White would have used other pieces for play:

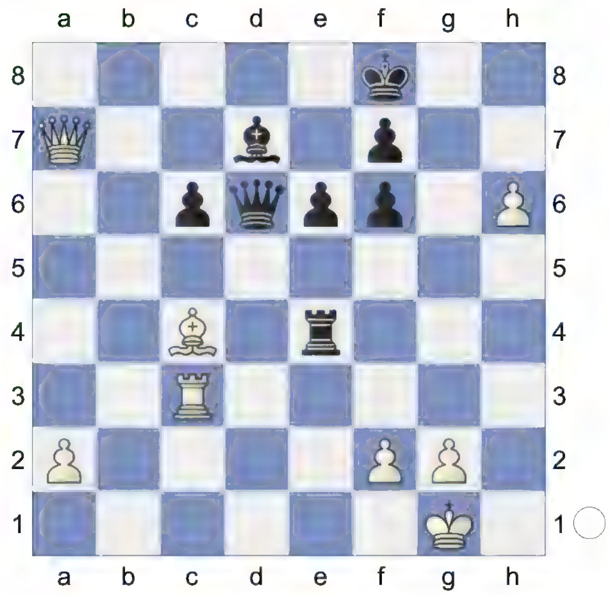
A) 28...Rxc4? 4.96/24 28...Qd6 2.79

(Diagram)

29.Qa8+! Be8 6.43/34 *( ⌓29...Ke7* 4.56/20 *30.Rxc4 Qxh6 31.Qa3+ Kd8 )* 30.h7;

B) 28...Qd6





29.Bf1!+-;

C) 28...Qd6 2.90/18 might work better. 29.Bf1 Rh4;

D) 28...Re1+? 5.02/5 29.Bf1+- Qd6 ( -> ...Rxf1+!) *( 29...Be8?* 8.87/20 29...Qd2 4.57 *30.Qc5+ Kg8 31.Qe7+- )*

D1) but not 30.Rg3? 0.00/36 30.Qa6 4.61 Rxf1+! 31.Kh2! *( 31.Kxf1??* -#1/16 *31.Kh2* 0.00 *Qd1# )* 31...Qb4! ...Qh4+ is the strong threat. 32.h7 *( 32.Qxd7!? Qh4+□ 33.Rh3 Qf4+ 34.Rg3*

*Qxh6+ 35.Rh3 Qf4+ 36.Rg3 Qh6+ 37.Rh3 Qf4+ 38.Rg3 Qh6+= )* 32...Qh4+ 33.Rh3 Qf4+ 34.Rg3 Intending Qc5+ and mate. Qh4+= with repetition;

**D2)** 30.Qa6! Kg8 31.Rd3 Qc7 32.Qc4+- and White wins. ]

[ 28.Qxd7? Re1# ]

[ 28.Bc4!+- 2.92/25 is the precise move to win. Qd6 29.Bf1 ]

**28...Rxe3± 29.fxe3** KQB-KQB

[Much less strong is 29.Qxe3?! Qxe3 30.fxe3 Kg8± ]

**29...Qg3** 3.38/26

[ 29...Qxh6!? 2.32/29 29...Qb4 1.60 should have been considered, eliminating the annoying pawn. However, after 30.Qxd7 Qxe3+ 31.Kf1 Qf4+ 32.Ke2 Qe4+ 33.Kd1 Qxg2 34.a4 White could probably find the way to support his a-pawn. ]

[ 29...Qh4!? was probably the most tenacious. ]

[ 29...Qb4± 1.57/22 was worth a try. ]

**30.Kf1** 2.01/23

[And not 30.Qxd7 Qe1+ 31.Kh2 Qh4+ 32.Kg1 Qe1+ 33.Kh2 Qh4+ 34.Kg1 Qe1+= ]

[ ⌓30.Qd4 3.38/26 ]

**30...Ke7** 7.40/25 This is just losing.

[ 30...Qd6! was the only way to keep fighting. ]

[ ⌓30...Qd6 2.01/23 31.Qa5 *( 31.Qd4 Qxd4 32.exd4 Kg8± )* 31...Bc8 ]

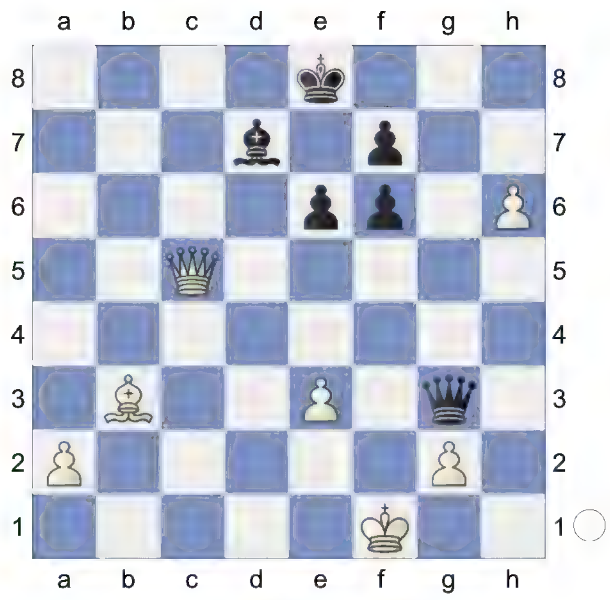
**31.Qa3++-** White is clearly winning.

**31...c5 32.Qxc5+ Ke8**

(Diagram)

**33.Ba4!** Getting the c8-square for the queen. Promotion **33...Bxa4 34.h7** Black resigned.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.56/



Black=0.46

**1-0**

**D39**

☐ **Kaidanov,Gregory S** **2475**
■ **Ivanchuk,Vassily** **2480**
Lviv 1987
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

Inf 45/(482) R.Scherbakov: 'White's approach with 10. Bxf6 was popular some 15-20 years ago but during the last few years it was supposed to be almost harmless for Black. He wins the pawn on c3 and, despite the fact that he only has the queen developed, White still failed to prove more than just adequate compensation for the pawn. In this game Gregory Kaidanov tried to get more than a perpetual check but one slow move was enough for White to spoil his initiative.' White's approach with 10. Bxf6 was popular some 15-20 years ago but during the last few years it was supposed to be almost harmless for Black. He wins the pawn on c3 and, despite the fact that he only has the queen developed, White still failed to prove more than just adequate compensation for the pawn. In this game Gregory Kaidanov tried to get more than a perpetual check but one slow move was enough for White to spoil his initiative.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!" **1.d4 Nf6**

[ 1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 1-0 (34) Kaidanov,G (2475)-Ivanchuk,V (2480) Lvov 1987 [R.Scherbakov] ]

**2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

A) 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 *( 9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 Vienna-Vienna #16)* 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

B) 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 *( 10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+ (27) 2006)* 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bxf6** Nowadays this approach does not promise much for White. **10...Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6 12.Rc1 Qa5** *

[ 12...Qb4?! can be strongly met by 13.Bxe6! Nc6!? *( 13...Bxe6 14.Nxe6+- )* 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc8 Rxc8 and Black has to defend his damaged position: Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and Black has to defend his damaged position:' 16.h4!? *( 16.Qg4!? )* 16...0-0 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Rh3± with a certain advantage, Ribli - Beliavsky, Barcelona 1989. ]

**13.Bb5+**

[ 13.h4 is more popular. ]

**13...Ke7**

[ 13...Nd7? 2.22/20 13...Ke7 0.00 loses to 14.Rxc8+! Rxc8 15.Bxd7+ Ke7 *( 15...Kxd7??* 5.68/19 15...Ke7 1.93 *16.Nb3+ )* 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.h4!+- and White is in time to get his rook into play. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and White is in time to get his rook into play.' ]

**14.e5** This pawn push does not promise White more than a draw. **14...fxe5**

[ 14...Qxa2 15.Nf5+ exf5 16.Qd6# ]

**15.Qh5! Nd7**

[In case of 15...exd4?? 3.68/25 15...Nd7 0.00 White has a very important check 16.Qg5+! f6 17.Qc5+ , winning the queen after Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', winning the queen after' Kf7 18.Be8+! Rxe8 19.Qxa5+- Rychagov - Kosyrev, Moscow 2000 ]

[ 15...Nd7!? 16.Qg5+ Kd6± ]

[ 15...exd4? 16.Qg5+ f6 17.Qc5+ Kf7 18.Be8+ Kxe8 19.Qxc8+ Qd8 20.Qxe6+ *( 20.Qxb7? Nd7-+ )* 20...Kf8 21.Rc8+- ]

**16.Qg5+** Nf5+! is the strong threat. The position is equal. **16...Kf8!**

[ 16...Kd6 1.28/22 16...Kf8 0.00 is too suspicious:

**A)** 17.Bc4!? 0.33/19 17.Be2 1.05 is also interesting: a6 and here in the game Ruck - Acs, Balatonlelle 2002 White could have maintained his initiative by Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and here in the game Ruck - Acs, Balatonlelle 2002 White could have maintained his initiative by'. Threatens to win with ...Qd8. 18.Nf3 f6 1.58/19 ( *18...Qd8=* 0.17/20 keeps the balance. *19.Nxe5 Qxg5 20.Nxf7+ Ke7 21.Nxg5 Ne5* ) 19.Qg7↑;

**B)** 17.Be2 a6 Wards off Nb5+ 18.Nf3 f6? 2.58/18 ( *18...Qd8±* 0.91/19 ) 19.Qg7+- with a certain initiative. In the game Kosyrev - Marcelin, Biel 2004 Black found himself in big trouble after the logicalbutincorrect Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'with a certain initiative. In the game Kosyrev - Marcelin, Biel 2004 Black found himself in big trouble after the logical but incorrect' with a certain initiative. In the game Kosyrev - Marcelin, Biel 2004 Black found himself in big trouble after the logicalbutincorrect Qd8? 20.Nd2!+- ]

**17.Qh6+?!** This idea does not promise much for White.

[ However, the tempting However, the tempting 17.Rxc8+ Rxc8 18.Bxd7 is well met by. White threatens Nxe6+ and mate. Qd8! and White has to force a draw by Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and White has to force a draw by' 19.Nxe6+ fxe6 20.Qh6+ Ke7 0.43/5 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or' (or *20...Kf7 21.Qxe6+ Kg7* Strongly threatening ... Rc1+. *22.Qg4+ Kf6 23.Qh4+ Kg7 24.Qg4+ Kf6 25.Qf3+ Ke7 26.Bxc8 Qxc8 27.g3 Qc6 28.Kg2 Rc8 29.Re1* and here a draw was agreed in the game Adorjan - Lau, Polanica Zdroj 1991 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and here a draw was agreed in the game Adorjan - Lau, Polanica Zdroj 1991'; *20...Kf7=* 0.00/35 *21.Qxe6+ Kf8* ) 21.Qxe6+ with a draw in Ribli - Tukmakov, Germany 1988 and many other games. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with a draw in Ribli - Tukmakov, Germany 1988 and many other games. ' ]

**17...Ke8! 18.Qg7 Rf8 19.Qxe5 Qd2!** Black's queen is disturbing White's development. **20.Nb3 Qb4** Perhaps this retreat is not the best.

[ 20...Qd5!? , as was played in the game De Saegher - Jonkman, Netherlands 1995, deserves serious attention. Here White should probably have played Scherbakov,Ruslan: ', as was played in the game De Saegher - Jonkman, Netherlands 1995, deserves serious attention. Here White should probably have played' 21.Qe2!?≌ with compensation for the pawn but Black should be fine after Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with compensation for the pawn but Black should be fine after' Rg8∞ ]

[ 20...Qd5 simplifies 21.Qxd5 exd5 22.Bd3 h5 ]

**21.Qh5**

[ 21.Nd4!? ]

**21...a6↑** Black is more active.

[ 21...Ke7 is more complex. 22.Rc7 Rg8 23.g3 Qd6 ]

**22.Bd3** -0.62/17

[White should try 22.Be2= -0.12/17 ]

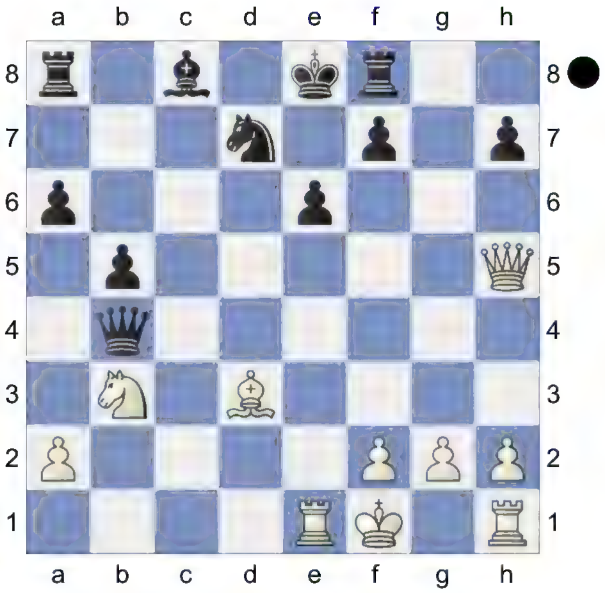
**22...b5** 0.00/22

[ 22...b6!∓ -0.62/17 ]

**23.Re1** -0.86/22

[ 23.Qxh7 Bb7∓ ]

[ 23.Qf3= 0.00/22 remains equal. Rb8 24.Be4 ]



Attacking the pawn on e6. However, Black has a tricky defence. **23...Nf6** 0.04/22

[ 23...Ke7!∓ -0.86/22 24.Qf3 Ra7 ]

**24.Qe5!= Nd5** 0.46/23 It might look like a blunder but actually the knight cannot be taken. **25.Nd4?!** -0.02/17 A serious mistake - White is losing time and doing nothing to get his K-side rook into play.

[Obviously not 25.Qxd5?? -2.74/17 25.Be4 0.55 Qxe1+! ]

[ 25.Be4!? Bb7 26.Bf3= ]

[ 25.Be4± 0.46/23 Bb7 26.h4 ]

**25...Bb7!** aiming for ...Rd8. **26.h4** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Perhaps White thought that Black couldn't develop his bishop due to something like'

[ Perhaps White thought that Black couldn't develop his bishop due to something like Perhaps White thought that Black couldn't develop his bishop due to something like 26.Nxe6? -3.72/18 26.Bxh7 -0.07 but it actually gave nothing: fxe6 27.Qxe6+ Kd8-+ and White couldn't create any threats. ]

[ 26.Bxh7!? Ne7 27.Be4 Bxe4 28.Qxe4 Qc4+ *( 28...Rd8 29.Nxe6* Discovered Attack, Double Attack *Qxe4 30.Ng7+ Kd7 31.Rxe4± )* 29.Kg1= ]

**26...Rd8!** It turns out that White's minor pieces are rather shaky on the d-file. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It turns out that White's minor pieces are rather shaky on the d-file.'. ...Nf4! would now be deadly.

**27.Rh3** -1.50/21

[ 27.Be4!? was probably the best but Black's chances were already preferable. ]

[ 27.Be4!∓ -0.31/22 ]

**27...Qd6!∓** Simple and strong - Black is still a pawn up so he does not hesitate to offer exchange of queens. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Simple and strong - Black is still a pawn up so he does not hesitate to offer exchange of queens.'

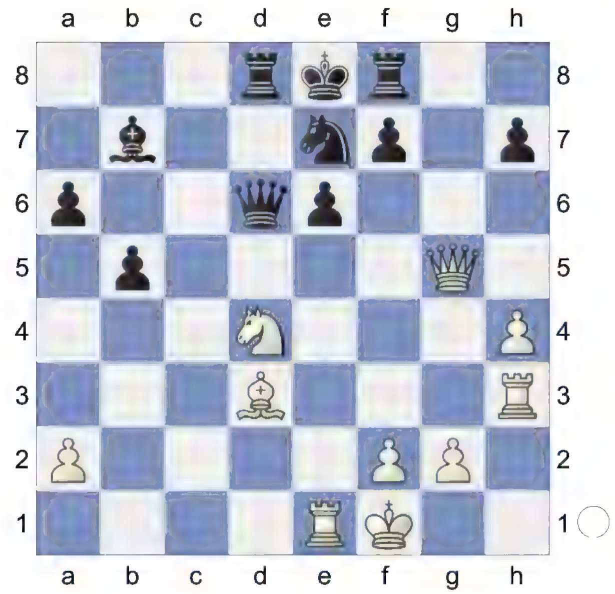
**28.Qg5** -3.60/22 This desperate attempt to create threats for the Black king only makes things worse but White already needed a good advice. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'This desperate attempt to create threats for the Black king only makes things worse but White already needed a good advice.'

[ 28.Qxd6∓ -1.08/19 Rxd6 29.Nxb5 ]

**28...Ne7?** 0.27/21

[ 28...Nf4!? seemed also possible: 29.Nf5 Qb4! *( 29...Bxg2+ 30.Qxg2 Qxd3+ 31.Rxd3 Nxg2 32.Rxd8+ Kxd8 )* 30.Ng7+ Kd7 31.Rg3 Bxg2+ 32.Rxg2 Hoping for Rg4. Nxd3 33.Rd1 Kc8-+ and White couldn't disturb Black's opened king but Ivanchuk still preferred safe approach.

Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and White couldn't disturb Black's opened king but Ivanchuk still preferred safe approach.' ]
[ 28...Nf4-+ -3.60/22 29.Nf5 Qb4 *( 29...Bxg2+ 30.Qxg2 Qxd3+ 31.Rxd3∓ )* 30.Ng7+ Kd7 ]



**29.Rd1?!** -4.10/18 Now Black wins easily. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Now Black wins easily.' **29...Rg8-+** Skewer
[ 29...Qxd4 30.Bxb5+ axb5 31.Rxd4 Rxd4 32.Qxb5+ Bc6 33.Qb3∓ ]
**30.Nxb5** Black is clearly winning.
**30...Qb8** All Black's pieces are on the last two ranks but White can already throw the towel. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'All Black's pieces are on the last two ranks but White can already throw the towel.'
[ 30...axb5 31.Bxb5+ Kf8 *( 31...Bc6? 32.Rxd6 Rxd6 33.Qc5+- )* 32.Rxd6 Rxd6 33.Qh6+ Rg7 34.f3+- ]
**31.Qc1 Bxg2+ 32.Ke1 Bxh3 33.Nc7+ Kf8 34.Qh6+ Rg7** Resigned. 1-0 (34) Kaidanov,G (2475)-Ivanchuk,V (2480) Lvov 1987 [R.Scherbakov].
Weighted Error Value: White=0.64/Black=0.34
**0-1**

**D39**

☐ **Vienna Variation/5**
■ **7 Bxc4 ... 10 Bxf6 Qxc3**
1 d4 d5 ChessPub Guide 07.09.2014
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4
**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**
[ 6.Qc2 b5 7.a4 c6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 Be7 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Ne4 0-0 15.Nd6 Qc7 16.Qd2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Rxd6 18.exd6 Qxd6 15. Vienna 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4-Vienna 5. e4 Bb4 6.Qc2 ]
[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0
**A)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 11.Re1 f5 12.Qf3 Nxe5 13.Rxe5 Kh8 14.Bf4 Bd6 *( 14...g5 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Rae1 Bxe5 17.Rxe5 c6 18.h4 gxh4 19.Bf4 Rg8 20.Bxe6 Bxe6 21.Rxe6 Rg6 22.Qe3 Kg8 23.Rxg6+ hxg6 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Be5+ Kh6 26.Qf7 Qg8 27.Qxb7 Rf8 28.Qxc6 f4 29.c4* (37) Chapter D00-Games Chapter D00 Game 6*)* 15.Rae1 Bxe5 16.Bxe5 Rf7 17.Qh5 Kg8 18.Re3 Bd7 19.Rh3 h6 20.Rg3 Rf6 21.Bxf6 Qxf6 22.Rg6 (65) Chapter-Games Chapter 10 (1);
**B)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 h6 13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Qxf4 Bc6 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Bb3 Qd7 17.Rfd1 Rfd8 18.h3 Rab8 19.Qe5

Qd6 20.Qa5 ½-½ Grebnev,A (2513)-Makarian,R (2537) World U20 blitz op 2024 (7) ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+**

[ In the Vienna Variation Black begins Q-side actions rather early, trying to put some concrete problems for White, to force him to make some concessions, for example, to sacrifice a pawn. Thus if Black suddenly stops at the half-way and decides to complete his K-side development by 8...0-0 , White usually does not have any problems and he can comfortably think about concrete actions. The first moves in Vienna are promoting White's development and Black must at least get something as a compensation, even by taking more risk. 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Qe2! A strong idea - White simply continues his development, not being worried about such ideas as ...Nd7-e5 or . ..Ba5xc3 followed by ...Qd8-a5. Bxc3 *( 10...Ne5* could be well met by *11.Rad1 Nxc4 12.Qxc4↑* with initiative*)* 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.f4 e5!? Black is trying to get his bishop into play and so the Q-side rook but it is still not so easy - in the game Ivanisevic - Ninov/Lazarevac 1999 White seized a strong initiative on the K-side after 13.Nf5↑ ]

[ Sometimes Black does not want to damage his K-side pawn structure and plays 8...Nbd7 before capturing ...Bb4xc3 and ...Qd8-a5, for example, such players as Andrei Kharlov, employs this approach from time to time. Next Black castles with a hope that the weak c3-pawn will make White's life less comfortable. However, White should not be too worried about it. It also gives him the possibility of castling and his chances seem to be better thanks to his good development and active pieces - everything is in his hands to get real benefit by using the advantages of his position. What Black is hoping for? The position becomes unbalanced and in such situation, as a rule, one cannot play just safe moves - strong chess is very much required and so it gives Black chances to outplay the less experienced opponent. 9.0-0 *( 9.Ndb5* cannot put serious problems for Black: *0-0 10.a3 Be7 11.0-0 a6 12.Nd4 Ne5 13.Be2 Bd7 14.Bf4 Ng6 15.Be3 Qb8 16.g3 Rc8* with a good play *)* 9...Bxc3 10.bxc3

**A)** In case of 10...0-0 White can continue his development by 11.Re1 *(or 11.Qe2 Qa5 12.f4* Ivanisevic - Ninov/Lazarevac 1999*)* 11...Qc7 *( 11...Ne5 12.Bb3⩲ )* 12.Bb3 Qc5 *( 12...Qxc3* is suspicious: *13.e5 Nd5 14.Bxd5! exd5 15.Nf5↑* with a strong initiative*)* 13.Qd2⩲ and White's chances are preferable b6 14.Bxe6!? fxe6 15.Nxe6 followed by 16. Nxf8 with better chances for White.;

**B)** 10...Qa5 Attacking both bishop on g5 and pawn on c3. However, in many cases a capture of the pawn is too risky.

**B1)** 11.e5?! looks interesting but in fact Black has sufficient defensive resources: Qxe5 12.f4 Qc5 13.Qe2 0-0 14.Kh1 h6 and Black is fine;

**B2)** 11.Nb5!? deserves attention: 0-0 12.Bxf6!? Nxf6

13.e5± and White's chances are preferable.;

**B3)** 11.Bxf6 This simple approach can still put some problems for Black but they do not seem too dangerous. Nxf6 12.Bb5+ Bd7 13.Rb1 Bxb5 ( *13...Rd8!?* is also worthy of consideration: *14.e5 Nd5 15.c4 Ne7* with a good play for Black*)* 14.Rxb5 This position arose in the game Dreev - Kharlov/ chessassistantclub.com 2004, which continued

**B3a)** it also deserves attention just to move the queen back by 14...Qc7!? White must find the way to maintain the initiative otherwise his weak c3-pawn gives Black an easy play: 15.e5 ( *15.Qb3 b6=* ) 15...Nd7 ( in case of *15...Nd5?!* White can think about *16.Rxd5! exd5 17.Nb5↑* followed by 18. Nd6 with initiative*)* 16.f4 0-0 17.Rf3± and White's chances look preferable although Black's position is rather solid;

**B3b)** 14...Qxc3!? 15.e5 and here Black should have thought about Ne4!? 16.Rxb7 0-0 with acceptable play;

**B4)** 11.Bh4 The main continuation. Let's take a look at some other options. 11...0-0 ( *11...a6* is a bit slow: *12.Re1 0-0 13.Bb3 Qh5?! 14.Qxh5 Nxh5 15.Be7! Re8 16.Bd6±* with a clear advantage *)*

**B4a)** Other continuations might also promise somewhat better chances for White, for example: 12.Qe2 Qc5 ( *12...a6 13.Rfd1±* ) 13.Rad1 b6 14.Kh1 Bb7 15.f3±;

**B4b)** or 12.Qc2 b6 13.Rfe1 Bb7 14.Nb5 Ne5 15.Bf1±;

**B4c)** 12.Re1

**B4c1)** Other moves do not solve the problems: 12...Qc5 13.Bxe6 ( White can also make some preparations first: *13.Qe2 b6 14.Rad1 Bb7 15.Nxe6!? fxe6 16.Bxe6+ Kh8 17.Bxd7* although Black gets counter chances after *Nxe4* ) 13...fxe6 14.Nxe6

**B4c11)** or 14...Qh5 15.Bxf6 ( *15.Nxf8!?* ) 15...Qxd1 16.Raxd1 gxf6 17.Nxf8 Kxf8 18.Re3 b6 19.Rh3 Kg7 20.Rhd3 Nc5 21.Rd8 Bb7 22.f3 Kg6 23.Kf2±;

**B4c12)** 14...Qc6 15.Qb3 Kh8 16.Nxf8 Nxf8 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Rad1 Qe7 19.Qb4! Qxb4 20.cxb4±;

**B4c2)** Or 12...b6 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bc6 Ra7 15.e5!? Nxe5 16.Bg3↑ with initiative;

**B4c3)** 12...Ne5 13.Bf1 ( *13.Bb3!?* is also worthy of consideration*)* 13...Bd7 The game Sakaev - Kharlov/YUG-chT Budva 1996 continued 14.Nb3! Qd8 15.Bg3 Ng6 16.Bd6 Re8 17.e5± and the very strong bishop on d6 gave White a clear advantage. ]

[Sometimes Black begins with 8...Qa5 , which gives White a chance to protect his knight on c3. However, a principled way is still

**A)** 9.Bd2!? is supposed to be not so ambitious but White might still count for some edge:

**A1)** 9...0-0 deserves attention among other possibilities.

**A1a)** 10.Nc2?! is dubious: Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qg5 12.Qe2 Qxg2 13.0-0-0 Qxe4 14.Rhg1 g6! 15.Ne3 *( 15.Bxf6? Qf4+∓ )* 15...e5 and Black is already better;

**A1b)** 10.Qe2 e5 11.Nc2 Nc6 12.a3 Nd4 13.Qd3 Nxc2+ 14.Qxc2 Qc7 15.Bb3 Be7 16.Rc1 Qb6 17.Be3 Qa6 18.Qe2± with advantage;

**A2)** 9...Qc5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 *( 10...Nbd7 11.Nb3 Qb6±* does not equalises completely according to tournament practice: *12.Qe2 a6 13.Bd3 Ne5 14.0-0 Bd7 15.Rac1 0-0 16.Be3 Qd6 17.Rfd1±* and so on *)* 11.Nb3 In the game Bacrot - Delchev/FRA-ch Port Barcares 2005 Black continued Qe5 (Both *11...Qb6;* and *11...Qe7* are also playable and more popular than the text move; While after *11...Qc7 12.Rc1 Nc6 13.0-0 0-0 14.Qe2 Rfd8 15.Bg5!* White keeps a pull, Kramnik - Vallejo Pons/ Tromso NOR 2014.) 12.Bd3 (An immediate *12.f4!?* deserves serious attention: *Qc7 13.Bd3 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Bc6 15.Qe2* with certain advantage) 12...Na6 13.f4! Qd6 and here the more natural 14.Qe2! *( 14.Bc2?! )* 14...Nc5 *( 14...Bxc3!? 15.bxc3 e5 )* 15.Nxc5 Qxc5 16.a3 Bxc3 17.Bxc3± was preferable, maintaining the advantage;

**B)** 9.Bb5+ , which may lead to one of the main lines.

**B1)** 9...Nbd7?! is dubious as it transposes into a rather risky line for Black after 10.Bxf6 Bxc3+ (after *10...gxf6 11.0-0* Black has no compensation for the damage of his K-side) 11.bxc3 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6 , which usually arises after 8. .. Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Qa5 10. Bb5+ Nbd7 11.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12.Kf1 gxf6;

**B2)** 9...Bd7 10.Bxf6 ( Here *10.Bd2?* is a big mistake due to *Bxb5 11.Ndxb5 Nxe4! )*

**B2a)** a surprising 10...Bxb5!? is interesting but it probably does not completely equalise:

**B2a1)** 11.Nb3!? was an interesting alternative: Qb6 *( 11...Qc7?! 12.Bxg7 Rg8* could be strongly met by *13.Qh5! )* 12.Bxg7 Rg8 with extremely complicated play, which needs further analysis;

**B2a2)** 11.Ndxb5 gxf6 12.0-0 (not *12.Nd6+? Ke7 )* 12...Nc6

**B2a21)** 13.Qf3!? Ke7 *( 13...a6?!* failed to *14.Qxf6! Rg8 15.Nd4 Bxc3 16.Nxc6!* and White escapes with extra pawn) 14.Rad1 is also worthy of consideration, keeping some edge;

**B2a22)** 13.a3 Bxc3 14.Nxc3± After some complications players have reached a rather typical for Vienna type of position. Thanks to his opponent's vulnerable king White's chances are preferable but Black's pieces are active enough and he keeps good control over the center, Kramnik - Anand/WCh (m/8) Bonn 2008;

**B2b)** 10...gxf6 11.0-0

**B2b1)** 11...Bxb5?! is dubious: 12.Ncxb5 Nc6 *(or 12...a6 13.a3! Be7 14.b4 Qb6 15.Nc3 0-0 16.Na4 Qd8 17.Rc1± )* 13.a3 Be7 14.Rc1 *( 14.Qh5!? )* 14...Rg8 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.Nd6+ Kf8 17.Nc4!±;

**B2b2)** 11...Bxc3 12.Bxd7+ Nxd7 13.bxc3 - this main line is considered in D39 Vienna Variation/7. ]

**9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bxf6** Nowadays this line is supposed to be acceptable for Black but White would still try to prove that his advantage in development can give him more than just a compensation for the pawn. **10...Qxc3+ 11.Kf1 gxf6**

[ 11...Qxc4+?! seems too risky for Black. 12.Kg1

**A)** Other continuations do not solve the problems: 12...Bd7 13.Rc1 Qb4 *( 13...Qa6? 14.Nb5!+- )* 14.Bxg7 Rg8 15.Bf6±;

**B)** or 12...0-0

**B1)** 13.Qg4!? g6 14.Qf4 Nd7 15.e5 Nxf6 16.exf6 Kh8 17.Rc1 e5!? *( 17...Qb4 18.h4↑ )* 18.Qh6 Qxc1+ 19.Qxc1 exd4 20.h4 Bf5±;

**B2)** 13.Rc1 Qb4 *( 13...Qa6 14.Qg4 g6 15.e5 Nd7 16.Qg5 Nxf6 17.exf6 e5 18.Nc6! Kh8 19.Ne7!+- )* 14.Qg4 g6 15.e5 Re8 16.Qf4↑ with initiative.;

**C)** 12...Nd7 13.Bxg7 Rg8 14.Rc1 Qa6 15.Bh6 This position is clearly in White's favour. The game Stahlberg - Sefc/Trencianske Teplice 1949 continued Nf6 16.e5! Nd5 17.h4! Bd7 18.Qc2± and so on. ]

**12.Rc1 Qa5**

[ 12...Qb4?! can be strongly met by 13.Bxe6! Nc6!? *( 13...Bxe6 14.Nxe6+- )* 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxc8 Rxc8 and Black has to defend his damaged position: 16.h4!? *( 16.Qg4!? )* 16...0-0 17.Qg4+ Kh8 18.Rh3± with a certain advantage. ]

**13.h4**

[ 13.Bb5+ is known to be harmless for Black:

**A)** 13...Nd7? loses to 14.Rxc8+! Rxc8 15.Bxd7+ Ke7 *( 15...Kxd7?? 16.Nb3+ )* 16.Bxc8 Rxc8 17.h4!+- and White is in time to get his rook into play.;

**B)** 13...Ke7 14.e5 This pawn push does not promise White more than a draw. fxe5 15.Qh5 Nd7 *(In case of 15...exd4??* White has a very important check *16.Qg5+! f6 17.Qc5+* , winning the queen after *Kf7 18.Be8+! Rxe8 19.Qxa5+-; 15...f6* looks risky: *16.Bc4 Qa3 17.Nf5+! Kd8□ 18.Rd1+ Bd7 19.Nd6 Kc7*

*20.Qf7↑* with initiative *)* 16.Qg5+

**B1)** 16...Kd6 is too suspicious: 17.Be2 *( 17.Bc4!?* is also interesting*)* 17...a6 18.Nf3 f6 19.Qg7↑ with a certain initiative;

**B2)** 16...Kf8 17.Rxc8+ *( 17.Qh6+* does not promise much for White: *Ke8 18.Qg7 Rf8 19.Qxe5 Qd2!* and the Black queen is disturbing White's development, Kaidanov - Ivanchuk/Lvov 1987*)* 17...Rxc8 18.Bxd7 White's position looks promising but after Qd8! he does not have more than a draw by 19.Nxe6+ fxe6 20.Qh6+ Ke7 *(*or *20...Kf7 21.Qxe6+ Kg7 22.Qg4+ Kf6 23.Qh4+= )* 21.Qxe6+= with perpetual check. ]

**13...Ke7**

[ 13...Bd7 is a bit slow: 14.Rh3 Nc6?! *( 14...a6!? )* 15.Nb5 Ne5 16.Nd6+ Ke7 17.Nxb7 Qb6 18.Rb3 Ba4 19.Rxb6 Bxd1 20.Rbb1± with a big advantage in the endgame. ]

**14.Rh3 Nc6**

[ 14...Rd8 15.Rd3 Nd7 is rare and probably dubious approach. Black is taking much risk, trying to get winning chances. *( 15...Nc6 16.Nxc6+ bxc6* would be a transposition to the main line *)* 16.Nb3 Qb6 In the game Naumkin - Delchev/Reggio Emilia 2005 White played a strong-looking 17.f4! , taking e5-square under control: Nf8 18.Rxd8 *( 18.e5!?* was also worthy of consideration*)* 18...Qxd8 19.Qe1!? Ke8!? 20.Nc5 Qb6 and here 21.a4!↑ seemed to be the right way to maintain the initiative although Black still have reasonable defensive resources. ]

**15.Nxc6+ bxc6 16.Rd3** A critical position for this line is reached. White sacrificed a pawn but has got all his pieces into play. An attempt to do the same usually costs Black his h7-pawn but in most cases he gets sufficient counter chances. Yet, White's chances still seem to be slightly better.

[ 16.Rhc3!? is a very rare but interesting option: Rd8 17.Qf3

**A)** or 17...Rd4 18.Bb3 -0.55/20 *( 18.Qe3=* -0.06/22 *Rxc4 19.Rxc4 )* 18...Bd7 0.00/25 *( 18...Bb7!∓* -0.55/20 *)* 19.Rc5 -0.37/20 *( 19.Qe3=* 0.00/25 deserves consideration. *Qe5 20.Rc4 Rxc4 21.Rxc4 )* 19...Qb4∓ 20.R5c4 Rxc4 21.Rxc4 Qb5 22.Kg1 a5 ...a4 is the strong threat. 23.Qc3 a4 24.Bc2 a3 25.Bb3=∞ and White has maintained his good compensation for the pawn;

**B)** 17...Rd4= -0.06/21 keeps the balance.;

**C)** 17...Ba6 0.74/21 18.Bxa6± Qxa6+ 19.Qe2 -0.01/25 *( 19.Kg1!?* deserves attention*; 19.Kg1±* 0.63/28 *Rd6 20.Qe3 )* 19...Qxe2+= 20.Kxe2 Rd4 21.Ke3± with a slight pressure but the endgame is certainly drawish. ]

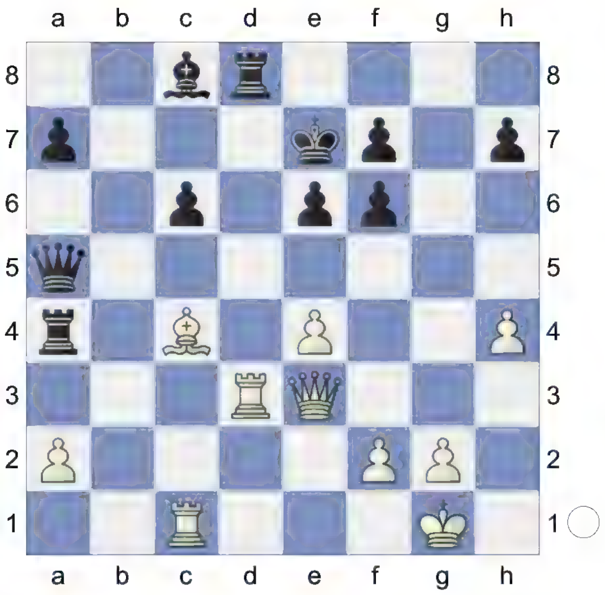
**16...Rd8**

[ 16...Rb8 is a bit less popular alternative: 17.Kg1

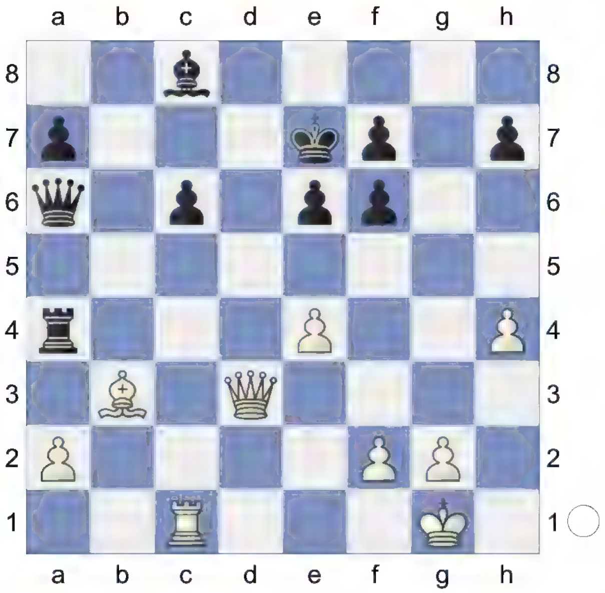
**A)** Other options do not solve the problems: 17...Rb2! 18.Bb3 0.07/26 *( 18.Qf3!±* 0.59/21 *)* 18...Qb6 0.49/24 *( 18...Rd8=* 0.07/26 is superior.*)* 19.Qf3± Ba6 20.Rdc3↑;

**B)** or 17...Rb7?! 18.Bb3 Bd7 19.Qg4↑ with initiative in both cases;

**C)** 17...Rb4? 0.80/20 17...Rb2 0.22 is even worse: 18.Qd2! Ra4 1.29/22 *( ⌓18...Rg8 0.85/21 )* 19.Qe3± Rd8



20.Bb3! Rxd3 21.Qxd3 Qa6



22.Qe3 0.62/19 *( 22.Qg3!± 1.02/23 Rd4 23.e5 )* 22...Ra5± 23.Rd1± with a clear advantage as Black's pieces are badly placed;

**D)** 17...Rd8

**D1)** 18.e5! This pawn push is rather typical for such a pawn structure. Since Black cannot capture this pawn with his queen his king becomes more vulnerable - however, White still cannot gain any real benefit: fxe5 19.Qh5 aiming for Qg5+. Rxd3 20.Qg5+ 0.03/20 *( Better is 20.Bxd3± 0.54/28 Qd2 21.Rd1 )* 20...f6!= Black has to force the matters. 21.Qg7+ Kd6! 22.Bxd3 Of course, Black cannot be happy with his advanced king but the next move causes some problems for White and so distracts him from the main target. Qd2! 23.Qf8+ Kc7 24.Qc5 Bd7 with a good play, Bagaturov - Palac/ Batumi 1999;

**D2)** 18.e5!± 0.36/23 f5 19.Rxd8 Qxd8 20.Qe2;

**D3)** 18.Rxd8 0.00/21 18...Qxd8= 19.Qh5 Qd4 *( 19...Rb2!? is rather interesting. The game continued. ...Qd4 would now be deadly. 20.Qc5+ Ke8 21.Qxa7 Qb6* Wards off Bb3 *22.Qxb6 Rxb6±* with a slightly better for White but drawish endgame*)* 20.Bb3

**D3a)** 20...Bd7 White gets better chances by 21.Qxh7 f5! 22.Qh6 Rh8! 23.Qg5+ Qf6 24.exf5 Rxh4 25.Qxf6+ Kxf6 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Rc5± but Black still keeps reasonable drawish chances thanks to the lack of pawns on the board.;

**D3b)** 20...Qxe4 does not solve the problems completely: 21.Qc5+ Ke8 22.Qxa7 Rb7 *(or 22...Rb4 23.Qa8 Kd8!*

*24.Qa5+ Ke8 25.Qa8 Kd8! 26.g3!?± )* 23.Qa8 Rc7 24.Qb8!?↑ and White maintains his initiative;

**D3c)** 20...Rb4!? Black has to play actively. In case of 21.Qxh7

**D3c1)** 21...Qxe4!? is also worthy of consideration. After 22.Qxe4 Rxe4 23.Rxc6 Bd7 24.Rc4 f5 25.Rxe4 fxe4 26.g4 f6 27.Kg2 White wants to play Kg3. e5 0.55/27 *( 27...Kf7=* 0.14/28 *)* 28.Bd1 0.06/26 *( 28.Kg3±* 0.55/27 *)* 28...Kf7± Black can probably hold the endgame;

**D3c2)** 21...Bd7 22.Qh5 This position arose in the game Norri - Hjelm/Helsinki 2002. It seems that Black should have played. Prevents Qe5. Qe5! 0.94/20 *( 22...Qxe4?! 23.Qc5+ Ke8 24.Qxa7±* was clearly better for White; *22...c5=* 0.23/24 remains equal.*)* 23.Qxe5± fxe5± White's advantage in such endgame is beyond doubts but Black can probably neutralise the passed h-pawn with his king. ]

**17.Rxd8**

[ 17.e5 does not promise much: fxe5 18.Rxd8 Qxd8 19.Qf3 Qd6 0.47/22 with acceptable play. *( 19...Rb8=* 0.00/20 feels stronger. *)*]

**17...Qxd8 18.Qb3!?** The idea of Krishnan Sasikiran. White chooses a completely new direction for the queen - White is not in a hurry to get the h7-pawn. At first he is going to stop Black's development and, of course, would not hesitate to disturb his king if such a possibility occurs. Some 15-20 years ago the line

[ 18.Qh5 Qd4 was rather popular but nowadays it's supposed to be okay for Black. White gets h7-pawn back but he moves his queen away from the center while its counterpart is very strong on d4. 19.Qxh7 *( 19.Kg1* can lead to the line we considered in the game Norri - Hjelm/Helsinki 2002 after *Rb8 20.Bb3* 19 but Black can also think about other options on the move *)* 19...Rb8 *( 19...c5* 0.00/24 19...Rb8 -0.36 does not solve the problems since White can simply continue *20.Qh5±* following by retreat of the bishop and attacking the c5-pawn *)* 20.Bb3 Ba6+ 21.Kg1 Bd3 22.Qg7! Bxe4 Black has already got all his pieces into play and he looks fine. However, the passed h-pawn still gives White sufficient compensation for the pawn.

**A)** after 23.Qg4?! -0.94/23 23.Qg3 -0.24 Rd8 -0.21/20 *( 23...Rb4∓* -0.94/23 *24.Qg8 Qd6 )* 24.Rd1= Qe5 25.Rxd8 Kxd8 26.h5 Ke7 Black has got the better chances, Tunik - Vyzmanavin/RUS-ch Gorky 1989;

**B)** 23.Qg3! Rh8 24.Rc4 Qa1+ 25.Kh2⩲ with roughly equal play. ]

**18...Qb6** The position is equal.

[ 18...Qd6 is also worthy of consideration. However, it does not fully equalise: 19.Rd1 Rb8 20.Rxd6 *( 20.Qf3!?* also came to mind but Black seems fine after *Qc5 21.Qd3 Kf8! 22.e5!? Qxe5* And now ...Kg7 would win. *23.Qxh7 Threatening mate with Qh8+. Ke7∞)* 20...Rxb3 21.Rxc6 Rb1+ 22.Ke2 Bd7 23.Rc7 a5 24.Ra7 Rb2+ 25.Ke3 a4 Repels Bb3 26.g4 Kd6 27.f4± with a small advantage for White in this endgame. ]

**19.Qa3+ c5** This position arose in the game Sasikiran - Gustafsson/ playchess. com 2004, which continued **20.Qe3!? Bd7 21.e5** White is in a hurry to act. However, a prophylactic

[ 21.Kg1!?± -0.18/20 21.e5 0.31 deserved serious attention. Black couldn't defend everything anyway but White could win a pawn in a better situation. ]

**21...fxe5 22.Qg5+ Kf8 23.Qxe5±** with the initiative but Black still has an extra pawn and reasonable defensive resources.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.05 (flawless)

**D39**

☐ **Burgess,Graham** **2300**
■ **Law,Andrew** **2304**
BCF-chT 9900 (4NCL) (4.4) 21.11.1999
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

The type of position which arises after 12...a6 13. Be2 Nc6 14.0-0 Qc7 has been under test for many years. Black's K-side pawn structure is damaged and his pressure on the c-file plus the good possibility to arrange his pieces in front of White's c-pawn are still not completely sufficient to equalise the chances. White can usually maintain a small advantage by trying to disturb Black's king - he can shift his queen to the K-side or to the center, while showing the intention to prepare some break... It is actually not such an easy task to create real problems but Black's play is not so easy either since he is always under tension. In this game Black preferred not to take White's c3-pawn at the critical moment and so White maintained his initiative in a typical and rather instructive way although he later failed to limit Black's creative counterplay. A very interesting and useful game for the better understanding of this type of position.

D39: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence with 5 Bg5 dxc4

Gavriel,Tryfon: 'Peter: 'Let's warm up with a couple of extremely rare ideas for black, just to get into things, before entering the big mainlines!"Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'The type of position which arises after 12...a6 13. Be2 Nc6 14. 0-0 Qc7 has been under test for many years. Black's K-side pawn structure is damaged and his pressure on the c-file plus the good possibility to arrange his pieces in front of White's c-pawn are still not completely sufficient to equalise the chances. White can usually maintain a small advantage by trying to disturb Black's king - he can shift his queen to the K-side or to the center, while showing the intention to prepare some break... It is actually not such an easy task to create real problems but Black's play is not so easy either since he is always under tension. In this game Black preferred not to take White's c3-pawn at the critical moment and so White maintained his initiative in a typical and rather instructive way although he later failed to limit Black's creative counterplay. A very interesting and useful game for the better

understanding of this type of position.' **1.d4** Scherbakov,Ruslan **1...Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bg5N**

[ 6.Bxc4 Nxe4 7.0-0

**A)** 7...Nf6 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Rb8 ( *9...a5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3* Vienna-Vienna #16) 10.Rd1 0-0 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxa7 Bd7 13.Qa4 c5 14.Qc2 Vienna-Vienna #19;

**B)** 7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Ne5 0-0 10.Qg4 Nc6 ( *10...c5 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Bd3 Re8 13.f4 g6 14.Bxg6 fxg6 15.Nxg6 hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Kh8 17.Bg5 Bxg5 18.fxg5 Re7 19.Qh6+ Kg8 20.g6 Nd7 21.Rf3 Nf8 22.Raf1 Nxg6 23.Rg3 Rg7 24.Rxg6 Rxg6 25.Qxg6+* (27) 2006) 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.Rae1 Ne7 13.Bc1 c5 14.Ba3 b6 15.Qf3 Rb8 16.Ng4 Nf5 17.dxc5 Be7 18.Ne5 Bxc5 19.Bxc5 bxc5 20.Nc6 Bb7 (22) Bacrot,E (2725)-Nakamura,H (2784) Geneve (rapid) 120/(150) 2013 ]

**6...c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 Qa5 10.Bb5+ Bd7 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Qb3 a6 13.Be2 Nc6 14.0-0 Qc7** This type of position has been tested for many years and the overall assessment has not been changing much. Black's damaged K-side pawn structure is a bit more important than White's weak c3-pawn. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'This type of position has been tested for many years and the overall assessment has not been changing much. Black's damaged K-side pawn structure is a bit more important than White's weak c3-pawn.' **15.Rab1** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'It seems to be a bit more promising for White to begin with'

[ It seems to be a bit more promising for White to begin with 15.Qa3 ]

**15...Na5 16.Qa3 Rc8** One of the critical positions. White has a choice. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'One of the critical positions. White has a choice.' **17.Rfd1** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'Here'

[Here 17.c4!? might also promise a small advantage for White: Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'might also promise a small advantage for White:'

**A)** 17...Qc5 is also playable but not fully equalising: Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'is also playable but not fully equalising:' 18.Qc3

**A1)** or 18...e5 19.Nb3 Nxb3 20.axb3 a5 21.Rfd1 Be6 0.82/21 Repels Rd5 ( *21...Bc6⩲* 0.45/21 ) 22.h3!⩲ Khalifman - J. Polgar, WCh Las Vegas 1999;

**A2)** 18...Ke7 Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'or' 19.Kh1 -0.19/22 ( *19.Rfd1⩲* 0.64/19 ) 19...e5 and here in the game Van Wely - Rustemov, Polanica Zdroj 1999 White could have secured a slight edge by Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'and here in the game Van Wely - Rustemov, Polanica Zdroj 1999 White could have secured a slight edge by' 20.Nb3! Nxb3 21.axb3 a5 22.Rbd1⩲;

**B)** 17...Nxc4!? 18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.Rfd1

**B1)** in case of 19...Qc5 1.51/18 19...Qc3 0.43 White gets the initiative: 20.Qf3 b5 2.14/19 ( *20...Ba4±* 1.51/20 ) 21.Qxf6+- Rg8 22.Nf3 Prevents Qg5. Qe7 23.Qd4↑ Ribshtein - Volzhin, Budapest 2000;

**B2)** 19...Qc3! Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'in case of'

**B2a)** 20.Rb3 Qc7 0.46/22 ( *20...Qc5=* 0.07/22 ) 21.Rbd3 Rg8!∞ is unclear;

**B2b)** while after 20.Qd6 Qc7 21.Qb4 ( *21.Qa3 Qc3* ) 21...Rg8 22.Qd2 -0.36/20 ( *22.Qxb7 Qxb7 23.Rxb7 e5=* is drawish; *22.Qxb7=* 0.00/25 *Ba4 23.Qxc7 Rxc7 24.Rbc1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1* ) 22...Rg5!∞ Black has got his K-side rook into play with good prospects, Kramnik - Van Wely, Monte Carlo 2000. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Black has got his K-side rook into play with good prospects, Kramnik - Van Wely, Monte Carlo 2000.';

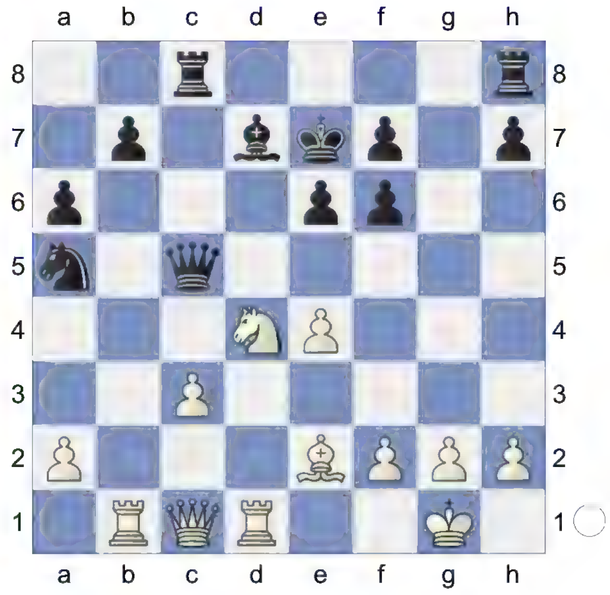
**B2c)** 20.Qxc3!? The endgame gives better chances for White. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'while after' 20...Rxc3 21.Rxb7 Bc8 22.Rb6!? Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'in the game Eingorn - Yudasin, USSR-ch Moscow 1988 White did not achieve much after' ( in the game Eingorn - Yudasin, USSR-ch Moscow 1988 White did not achieve much after *22.Ra7 0-0 23.Ne2 Rc2 24.Nf4 Kg7=* ) 22...0-0 23.Rd6± with a certain advantage for White. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with a certain advantage for White.' ]

**17...Qc5** 0.61/20 Inhibits c4.

[ 17...Qxc3= 0.16/21 18.Nb3 Nxb3 19.Rxb3 Qc5 ]

**18.Qc1!±** A typical manoeuvre - White sends his queen to the center or the opposite flank trying to give the black king problems. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'A typical manoeuvre - White sends his queen to the center or the opposite flank trying to give the black king problems.'

**18...Ke7**

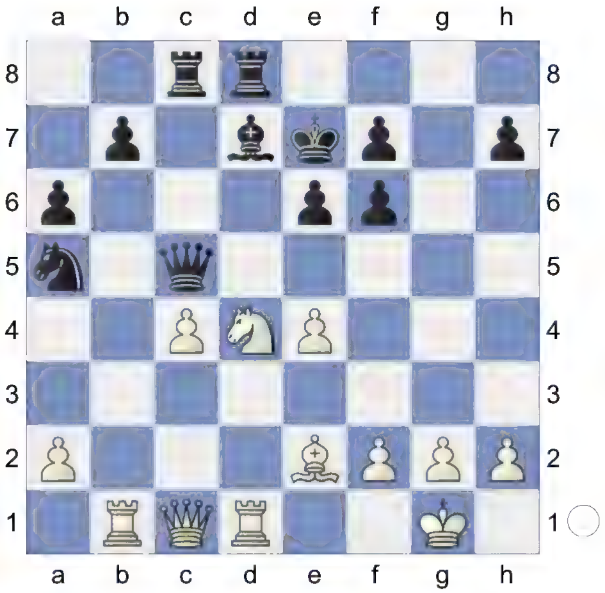


**19.c4!?** 0.41/22 **Rhd8**

[ 19...Rhg8 was worthy of consideration: 20.Qf4 0.04/20 ( *20.Nf5+?!* 0.13/18 20.Bf1 0.57 does not promise much: *exf5 21.Rd5 Qc7 22.Qa3+ Ke8 23.Rxa5 Bc6∓* and Black is okay; *20.Bf1±* 0.66/20 ) 20...Qe5 0.93/18 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or' (of course, not *20...Qg5??* 3.91/17 *20...Ba4* 0.05 *21.Nf5+;* or *20...e5? 21.Nf5+ Bxf5 22.Qxf5+-; 20...Ba4=* 0.04/20 keeps the balance. *21.Nb3 Bxb3 22.axb3 Nc6* ) 21.Qe3± 0.52/18 and White maintains his advantage. ( *21.Qd2!±* 0.93/18 *Be8 22.Nf3* )]

(Diagram)

White' major pieces might look a bit passive on the first rank but actually all of them can be used in the play.



Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White' major pieces might look a bit passive on the first rank but actually all of them can be used in the play.' **20.Nf5+!** A strong idea. Deflection **20...exf5 21.Rd5 Qc7** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The alternative'

[The alternative 21...Qc6!? did not solve the problems:

**A)** but not 22.Rxa5? fxe4 1.11/19 ( *22...b5⩲* 0.56/19 ) 23.Qb2 0.04/17 (White should try *23.Qa3+!±* 1.11/19 *Ke8 24.Rh5* ) 23...Be6!= 24.Qxb7+ Qxb7 25.Rxb7+ Kf8↑ and it is Black who gets the initiative;

**B)** 22.Qa3+ Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'but not' 22...Ke8 23.Qxa5! fxe4 0.63/20 ( *23...Be6=* 0.21/23 ) 24.Rbd1↑ 0.21/23 with a certain initiative. ( *24.Rh5⩲* 0.63/20 )]

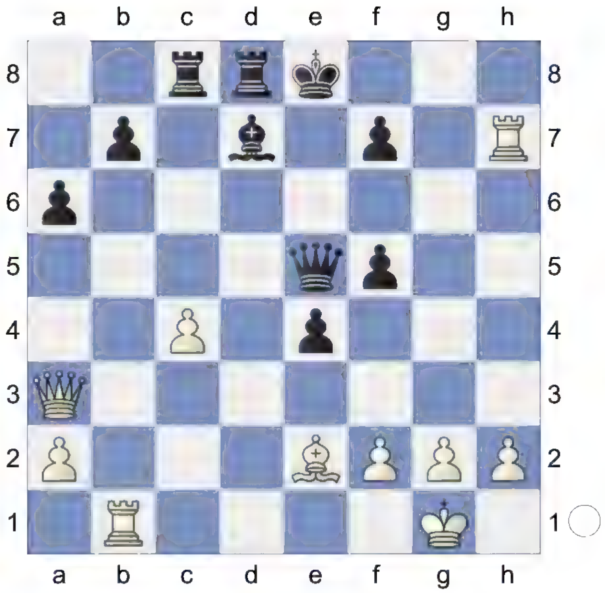
**22.Qa3+ Ke8 23.Rxa5 fxe4** 1.17/17

[ 23...Bc6!⩲ 0.36/20 ]

**24.Rh5± f5 25.Rxh7** White is more active. **25...Qe5** 1.71/17

[ 25...Be6± 1.26/19 was worth a try. 26.Qe3 Qe5 ]

(Diagram)



An interesting sacrifice. Black leaves the b7-pawn to the mercy of fate but locks up the White rook on h7. Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'An interesting sacrifice. Black leaves the b7-pawn to the mercy of fate but locks up the White rook on h7.'. Repels Rh8+ **26.Rxb7?** 0.16/23

[ 26.Qh3!+- 1.71/17 Bc6 27.Qh4 ]

**26...Rb8!=** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and'. The position is equal.

[Both 26...Qa1+?! 2.26/17 26...Rb8 0.00 27.Bf1 ]

[and 26...f4?! 27.Rh5 Qf6 28.h4 gave White a real advantage. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'gave White a real advantage.' ]

**27.Qxa6?** This logical capture of the second pawn leads to a forced draw. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'This logical capture of the second pawn leads to a forced draw.'

[ 27.Qb3! was the more promising but after Rxb7 28.Qxb7 Qa1+ 29.Bf1 Be6

**A)** both 30.Qxa6?! Rd1 31.c5 Qc1 32.h4 Bc4 33.Qc6+ Ke7 ( *33...Rd7?? 34.Qf6!+-* ) 34.Qc7+ Kf6 35.Kh2 Rxf1 36.Qd8+ Kg6

37.Qg8+ Kf6 38.Qd8+=;

**B)** and 30.h4?! Rd1 31.Kh2 Qe5+ 32.g3 f4↑ could promise nothing for White Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'could promise nothing for White';

**C)** 30.g3 Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and' 30...Rd2!=/∞ White's task was still rather difficult since he couldn't easily get his rook into play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'White's task was still rather difficult since he couldn't easily get his rook into play. ' ( *30...Rd1? 31.Kg2!* )

**C1)** Let's take a look at some other options: 31.Rh4 Rd1! ( *31...Rd1!? 32.Kg2□ f4 33.Qc6+ Ke7 34.Qc7+ Ke8 35.Qxf4 Rxf1 36.Qb8+ Kd7 37.Qb7+ Kd8 38.Qb8+ Bc8 39.Qd6+ Bd7 40.Qb8+ Bc8 41.Qb6+ Kd7 42.Qa7+ Kd8 43.Qb6+ Kd7 44.Qa7+ Ke8 45.Rxe4+ Be6 46.Qb8+ Ke7 47.Qc7+ Ke8 48.Qb8+ Kd7 49.Qb7+ Ke8 50.Qc6+ Kf8 51.Qc5+ Ke8=* ) 32.Kg2! f4!=;

**C2)** 31.Qxa6

**C2a)** 31...Qxa2? 32.Rh8+ Ke7 33.Qb7+ Kf6 34.Rh6+ Ke5 ( *34...Kg7 35.Rxe6* ) 35.Qb6+-;

**C2b)** 31...Qd4 32.Qc6+ Kf8! ( *32...Ke7 33.Qc7+ Kf8 34.Qf4 Rxa2=/∞ Rh7, Bf1<* ) 33.Qa8+ Ke7 34.Qa3+ Kf6 35.Qe3 Qxe3 36.fxe3 Rxa2=;

**C3)** 31.Qb8+!? deserves attention: Rd8 ( *31...Ke7? 32.Qb4+* ) 32.Qc7! Rd2! ( *32...Rd7 33.Qc6* ) 33.a3! Qd4 34.Qf4 Kd7! ( *34...Rd1 35.Kg2* ) 35.c5 Rb2! and White still failed to get his rook back into play. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and White still failed to get his rook back into play.';

**C4)** 31.Qa8+!? Scherbakov, Ruslan: 'Let's take a look at some other options:'

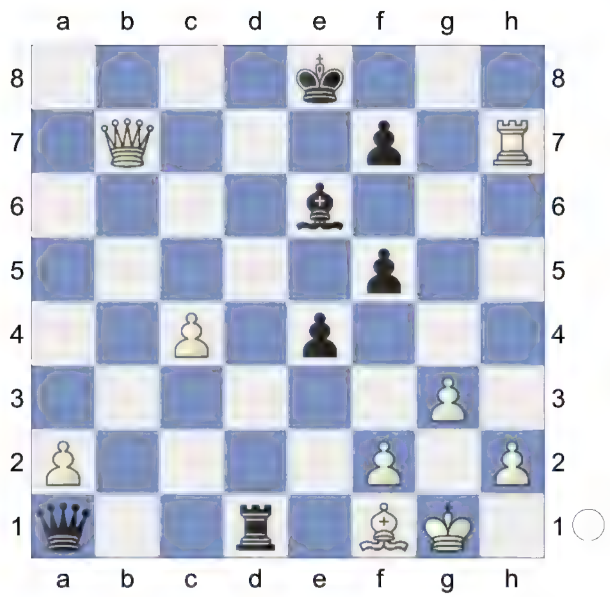
**C4a)** 31...Rd8 32.Qxa6 0.00/20 ( *32.Qc6+⩲* 0.36/18 should be considered. *Kf8 33.Kg2* );

**C4b)** 31...Ke7 32.Rh8! Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'in case of' ( in case of *32.Qa7+ Ke8 33.Kg2 Qd4! 34.Qxd4 Rxd4 35.Rh8+ Kd7 36.Ra8 Rd2=* Black has sufficient counter chances ) 32...Qd4! ( -> ...f3 ) 33.Qf8+ Kd7! 34.Qc8+ Ke7 35.Qc7+ Bd7 36.Qf4 Rxa2 0.45/21 ( *36...Rxf2=* 0.00/23 feels stronger. *37.Qxf2 Qxh8* ) 37.Rb8↑ and White has got the initiative. Black's king is vulnerable and White has a good passed pawn on the h-file but Black still has a lot of defensive resources. Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'and White has got the initiative. Black's king is vulnerable and White has a good passed pawn on the h-file but Black still has a lot of defensive resources.' ]

**27...e3!** Now Black escapes.

[ 27...Rxb7? 0.48/19 27...e3 0.00 was bad: 28.Qxb7 g3 would now be deadly. Qa1+ 29.Bf1 Strongly threatening Rh3. Be6! 30.g3! and Rd1 1.71/28 ( *30...Qc3±* 0.74/19 )

(Diagram)



could be met by 31.Kg2!+- Rxf1? 4.53/29 ( *31...e3* 1.62/18 ) 32.Rh8+!+- Qxh8 33.Qb8++- ]

**28.fxe3** Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'The interesting'

[The interesting 28.g3!? Black must now prevent Bh5. exf2+ 29.Kf1! was well met by ( *29.Kxf2?* aiming for Bh5. *f4 30.gxf4! Qxf4+ 31.Ke1!* Rh8+ is the strong threat. *Qc1+ 32.Kf2=* ) 29...f4! 30.gxf4 Qa1+ Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'or' ( or *30...Bh3+!? 31.Rxh3* White wants to mate with Qb5+. *Rd1+! 32.Kg2* Intending Rh8+ and mate. *Qe4+ 33.Rf3* Qa4+ would kill now. *f1Q+ 34.Bxf1 Rxb7∞* with unclear play Scherbakov,Ruslan: 'with unclear play' ) 31.Kxf2 Qd4+ 32.Kf3 Hoping for Rxb8. Qc3+ 33.Kg2 And now Rxb8 would win. Qe3! 34.Bf3 Qd2+ 35.Kg3 Threatens to win with Rh8+. Qe1+ 36.Kg2 Qd2+= and White cannot avoid a repetition of moves. ]

**28...Qxe3+** Draw agreed.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.20 (precise) /Black=0.17 (very precise)

**½-½**

**D24**

☐ **Kasimdzhanov,Rustam**
■ **Gelfand,Boris**
Candidates Elista (1.4) 31.05.2007
*[R.Scherbakov,MH]*

A rare pawn sacrifice in the Vienna variation gave Kasimdzhanov very active play. Gelfand came up with a new idea but he still had to defend very carefully and he did it with patience. Then White got too ambitious, and overestimated his chances - as a result he could have lost his advanced pawn. In the time scramble things changed and it could already be White who got the extra pawn and winning chances but after mutual inaccuracies a drawish ending was reached. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'A rare pawn sacrifice in the Vienna variation gave Kasimdzhanov very active play. Gelfand came up with a new idea but he still had to defend very carefully and he did it with patience. Then White got too ambitious, and overestimated his chances - as a result he could have lost his advanced pawn. In the time scramble things changed and it could already be White who got the extra pawn and winning chances but after mutual inaccuracies a drawish ending was reached.'' A rare pawn sacrifice in the Vienna variation gave Kasimdzhanov very active play. Gelfand came up with a new idea but he still had to defend very carefully and he did it with patience. Then White got too ambitious, and overestimated his chances - as a result he could have lost his advanced pawn. In the time scramble things changed and it could already be White who got the extra pawn and winning chances but after mutual inaccuracies a drawish ending was reached.

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3

**1.d4** Krasenkow,M Krasenkow,Michal Krasenkow,M Krasenkow,Michal Krasenkow,Michal Krasenkow Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' **1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4 Bb4 6.Bxc4!?** A very rare continuation - White sacrifices a pawn, but seizes the initiative thanks to his lead in development. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'A very rare continuation - White sacrifices a pawn, but seizes the initiative thanks to his lead in development." A very rare continuation - White sacrifices a pawn, but seizes the initiative thanks to his lead in development.Krasenkow: 'An interesting but risky pawn sacrifice. The position is quite closed so White's development advantage can't be easily exploited.' **6...Nxe4 7.0-0**

[ 7.Qa4+ -1.00/21 7.0-0 0.33 Krasenkow Nc6 8.0-0 Nxc3 ( *8...Bxc3!?* -0.51/19 *8...Nxc3 -0.99 9.bxc3 Nxc3 10.Qb3! Nd5* ) 9.bxc3 Bxc3 10.Rb1 Bd7? ( *10...0-0! 11.Ba3 Nxd4!* ) 11.Qa3↑ 1-0 Radnic,Z-Seifert,P/Bad Zwesten 2001/EXT 2002 (23) ]

**7...Nxc3**

[ 7...Nf6 does not promise complete equality: Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'does not promise complete equality:" does not promise complete equality: 8.Qa4+ Nc6 9.Ne5 Be7 10.Nxc6 ( *10.d5!* Krasenkow *exd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Nxd5! 0-0 13.Qxc6±* ) 10...bxc6 11.Qxc6+ Bd7 12.Qf3 as in Gustafsson - Aronian, playchess.com 2004 Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'as in Gustafsson - Aronian, playchess.com 2004" Rb8= (Krasenkow) 0-1 Gustafsson,J-Aronian,L/playchess.com INT 2004/CBM 099 ext (23) ]

[ 7...Bxc3?! is suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. The game Pedersen - P. H.Nielsen/Faaborg 2007 continued Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'is suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. The game Pedersen - P.H.Nielsen/Faaborg 2007 continued" is suspicious. Black takes another pawn but gives up his important bishop and delays his development. The game Pedersen - P. H.Nielsen/Faaborg 2007 continued 8.bxc3 Nxc3 9.Qb3! ( *or 9.Qd3* 0.01/21 9.Qb3 0.70 Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' *Nd5 10.Ba3↑* ) 9...Nd5 10.Ba3 Nc6? 2.53/22 ( *10...a5±* 0.72/21 ) 11.Rfe1!+- Nce7 12.Bxe7! Nxe7 13.d5↑ with a strong initiative. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: ' ↑' R.Scherbakov: 'with a strong initiative." exd5 3.40/18 Krasenkow ( *⌓13...c6* 1.95/21 ) 14.Bxd5+- 0-0 15.Bxf7+! Rxf7 16.Rad1! Prevents Nd5. Qf8 17.Ng5 Bg4 18.f3! Bh5 19.Rd7? -0.16/24 ( *19.Ne6! Qc8 20.Rd8+ Qxd8 21.Nxd8 Rxd8 22.Rxe7+-; 19.Ne6!+-* 3.18/25 *Rxf3 20.gxf3* ) 19...Nc6 0-1 Pedersen,S-Nielsen,P/Faaborg 2007/CBM 116 ext (23) ]

**8.bxc3** White is slightly better. **8...Be7**

[ A greedy Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'A greedy'' 8...Bxc3?! 1.09/20 8...Bd6 0.40 could get Black into trouble: Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: '?!' R.Scherbakov: 'could get Black into trouble:'' 9.Rb1!

**A)** 9...0-0 2.33/21 9...Nc6 0.87 Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' 10.Qd3 è Nf3-g5 ↑ Nf3-g5;

**B)** 9...Nc6 1.29/21 9...c5 0.64 Krasenkow 10.Qb3? -0.52/23 ( *10.Rb3!± 1.29/21 Ba5 11.Ba3* ) 10...Bxd4⩱ And now ...0-0 would win. 11.Rd1!≌;

**C)** 9...c5!? Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov' 10.Bg5 0.39/21 ( *10.Rb3!± 1.18/22 cxd4 11.Ba3* ) 10...f6⩲ 11.Qb3!

**C1)** 11...fxg5 0.91/19 11...cxd4 0.45 12.Bxe6↑ 0.17/20 ( *12.Qxc3± 0.91/19 0-0 13.dxc5* );

**C2)** 11...cxd4 12.Bxe6!↑ and Black's king comes under a strong attack. ]

**9.Ne5** White has compensation.

[ 9.Qe2 Krasenkow Nd7 10.Rd1 c6 0.66/21 ( *10...0-0=* 0.25/18 ) 11.Bb3 Qc7 12.h4 0-0 13.Bg5 -0.16/21 (White should try *13.h5⩲* 0.57/20 ) 13...Bd6= 14.Qe4 -0.61/19 ( Better is *14.Qd2=* -0.07/22 ) 14...Re8 0.20/19 ( *14...Nf6!⩱* -0.61/19 *15.Bxf6 gxf6* ) 15.Rd3? -1.53/20 ( *15.Qg4!=* 0.20/19 ) 15...h6⩱ 16.Re1 c5⩱ 17.Ba4 -2.04/24 ( *17.Bxh6⩱* -1.49/22 *c4 18.Qg4* ) 17...c4 18.Rde3 Qa5 -0.72/19 ( *18...hxg5-+* -1.89/20 and Black stays clearly on top. *19.hxg5 g6* ) 19.Bxd7⩱ Bxd7 20.Bxh6 Qh5! Inhibits Qg4. 21.Qxb7 Rad8! 22.Bg5 f6 23.d5 -1.74/22 ( *23.Qa6⩱* -0.88/22 might work better. *Bc8 24.Qxc4* ) 23...e5 0-1 Hillarp Persson,T-Agrest,E/Umea 2003/EXT 2004 (37) ]

**9...0-0** **10.Qg4** Thank to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin attacking actions. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Thank to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin attacking actions.'' Thank to his lead in development and control over the center White can already begin attacking actions.

[ 10.Qe2 Krasenkow Nd7 11.Bb3 ( *11.Rd1!?* S.Kishnev ) 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5 Bd7 13.Rd1 Qe8! ( *13...Qc8!?* 0.63/20 13...Qe8 0.24 S. Kishnev ) 14.Qg4 Kh8 15.Bc2 Bc6 16.Rd3 Rd8 ( *16...f5!? 17.exf6 gxf6 18.Rg3! Rf7!* Against Qg7+ *19.Bh6!* White wants to mate with Bg7+. *f5 20.Bg7+ Kg8 21.Qd4* White threatens Bh6+ and mate. *Bh4! 22.Qxh4 Rxg7* S.Kishnev *23.Re1≌* ) 17.Rh3 ( *17.Rg3!? g6□ 18.Bh6=* ) 17...g6 18.Bg5 -0.51/23 ( *18.Bh6=* 0.30/22 ) 18...Bxg5⩱ 19.Qxg5 Rg8 20.Qf6+ Rg7∞ 1-0 Arbakov,V-Kishnev,S/Moscow (ch) 1989/Inf 47/[Kishnev,S] (60) ]

[ 10.f4!? -0.52/22 10.Qg4 0.34 Krasenkow Nd7 11.Qf3!? Nb6 -0.22/19 ( *11...c5⩱* -0.61/18 *12.Be3 Qc7* ) 12.Bb3≌ S.Kishnev ]

**10...Kh8!?** A new move - Black radically prevents the threat Bc1-h6. Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '!?' R. Scherbakov: 'A new move - Black radically prevents the threat Bc1-h6.'' A new move - Black radically prevents the threat Bc1-h6.

[ We considered Potkin - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006: Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'We considered Potkin - Kharlov/RUS-chT Sochi 2006:'' 10...Nc6 11.Bh6 Bf6 12.f4=/∞ -0.33/25 with excellent compensation for the pawn. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: ' =/∞' R.Scherbakov: 'with excellent compensation for the pawn.'' *( 12.Rfe1=* 0.27/19 *)* 12...Ne7 Krasenkow 13.Rae1 c5 *( 13...Nf5!? 14.Bg5□ c5= )* 14.Bg5 Nf5 15.dxc5 Bxg5 0.33/21 *( 15...Be7!⩱* -0.35/19 *)* 16.fxg5⩲ Qc7 0.67/22 *( 16...Qa5!=* 0.28/21 *)* 17.c6!⩲ bxc6 18.Rf3 Ba6! 19.Bxa6 0.00/23 *( 19.Bb3!⩲* 0.52/21 *)* 19...Qb6+= 20.Kh1 Qxa6 21.Nd7 Qxa2 0.55/20 *( 21...Rfd8 22.Nf6+!; 21...Rfd8=* -0.07/23 *22.Nf6+ Kh8 )* 22.Nxf8⩲ Rxf8∞ ½-½ Potkin,V-Kharlov,A/Sochi 2006/CBM 111 ext (57) ]

**11.Qh3 Qe8 12.Bd3 f5** Krasenkow: 'Black has to weaken his pawn structure and White's compensation for the pawn becomes more stable.' **13.Re1**

[An unexpected retreat 13.Be2! with the idea Be2-h5 looks interesting. In this case Black had to play Krasenkow,Michal: '(R.Scherbakov) with the idea Be2-h5 looks interesting. In this case Black had to play' with the idea Be2-h5 looks interesting. In this case Black had to play Kg8! 14.Bh5 Qd8! ]

**13...Nc6 14.Nf3** White supposes this knight would be useful in the forthcoming actions. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'White supposes this knight would be useful in the forthcoming actions.''

[The natural 14.Bf4!? has to be considered, too. Krasenkow,Michal: '(R.Scherbakov) has to be considered, too.' ]

**14...Qg6N 15.Rb1 Bd6 16.Rb2!?** A tempting manoeuvre. The bishop doesn't have to move, as it has enough scope from c1, while doubling the rooks on the e-file should increase pressure on Black. Yet, Black's defensive resources are rich enough. Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '!?' R. Scherbakov: 'A tempting manoeuvre. The bishop doesn't have to move, as it has enough scope from c1, while doubling the rooks on the e-file should increase pressure on Black. Yet, Black's defensive resources are rich enough.'' A tempting manoeuvre. The bishop doesn't have to move, as it has enough scope from c1, while doubling the rooks on the e-file should increase pressure on Black. Yet, Black's defensive resources are rich enough.

**16...b6 17.Rbe2 Bd7 18.Ng5 Rae8 19.Bb5**

[On 19.Bc4?! Black could respond Krasenkow,Michal: '(R.Scherbakov) Black could respond' e5! ]

[ 19.Bb5!? ]

**19...h6** Threatening ...e5.

[Interesting was 19...e5!? Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' 20.Bxc6 -1.05/17 *(on 20.dxe5! there was Rxe5!; 20.dxe5!=* 0.07/23 was the only way to keep the balance. *Rxe5 21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.Rxe5* Remove Defender *Bxe5 23.Bxd7 )* 20...Bxc6⩱ 21.dxe5 Be7 with an excellent game. The text-move is also possible. ]

**20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Nxe6** Krasenkow: 'White has regained the pawn but Black's bishop pair now compensates for his kingside weaknesses.' **21...Rg8 22.c4** Dodges Bb5 **22...Bd7!?**

Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '!?". A strong pair of Bishops.

[Black was not interested in 22...Bb4 Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' 23.Nf4 Qf7 24.Rxe8 Rxe8 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.Qe3! Qxe3 27.Bxe3 and White holds the balance. and White holds the balance. ]

**23.d5** Too ambitious... Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '?!' R. Scherbakov: 'Too ambitious..."

[The knight retreat 23.Nf4 could have helped White to avoid unnecessary problems: Krasenkow,Michal: '(R. Scherbakov) could have helped White to avoid unnecessary problems:' could have helped White to avoid unnecessary problems: Qf7 24.d5 etc. ]

**23...Bxe6**

[ 23...Bb4 Krasenkow 24.Nf4 Qf6 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Rxe8+ Bxe8 27.Nd3 ]

**24.Rxe6 Rxe6 25.dxe6** -1.36/21 This loses a pawn. Krasenkow: '?' Krasenkow,Michal: '?' '?' '?' Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '?!' R. Scherbakov: 'This loses a pawn." Krasenkow,M: '?' '?'

[ White had to play Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'White had to play" 25.Rxe6 Re8! 26.Bxh6! Krasenkow: 'White probably didn't see this trick.' *( ≤26.Rxe8+* Krasenkow *Qxe8∓ )* 26...Rxe6 *( 26...gxh6??* 2.80/18 26...Rxe6 0.00 Krasenkow: '?' Krasenkow,Michal: '?' '?' '?' Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '??" Krasenkow,M: '?' '?' *27.Qc3+ )* 27.Bd2+ Kg8 28.dxe6 Qxe6 29.Qd3 with a worse but defendable position. Krasenkow: '=' Krasenkow,Michal: '=' '=' '=' Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'with a worse but defendable position." Krasenkow,M: '=' '=' ]

[ 25.Rxe6= 0.00/24 Re8 26.Bxh6 Rxe6 27.Bd2+ Kg8 28.dxe6 ]

**25...Re8∓ 26.Qe3 f4** -0.18/19 The time deficit begins to tell. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'The time deficit begins to tell." The time deficit begins to tell.Krasenkow: 'Missing'

[ Black could already win the pawn by 26...Bb4 and Krasenkow,Michal: '(R. Scherbakov) and' 27.Re2? -3.34/22 was bad in view of *( 27.Bd2∓* -1.07/19 was forced. *Bxd2* Deflection *28.Qxd2 Rxe6 29.g3 )* 27...f4!-+ 28.Qxf4 Qd3! ]

[ Also good was Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Also good was" 26...Bc5!? Krasenkow: '!' Krasenkow, Michal: '!' '!' '!' Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: '!?" Krasenkow,M: '!' '!'

**A)** 27.Qe5 Krasenkow Bb4! Prevents Bd2. 28.Re2 Rd8 -0.25/20 *( 28...f4!-+* -1.64/23 White must now prevent ...f3. *29.f3 Qb1 )* 29.g3!= Rd1+ 30.Kg2 Hoping for e7! Rxc1 31.e7 Qc6+ *( ≤31...Bxe7 32.Qxe7 )* 32.Qd5 Qxd5+! 33.cxd5 Bxe7! 34.Rxe7 a5 and White's survival in this endgame is not guaranteed.;

**B)** 27.Qe2 Bb4! Krasenkow: '∓' Krasenkow,Michal: ' ∓' '∓' '∓' Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '!" Krasenkow,M: '∓' '∓' ]

[ 26...Bb4∓ -1.50/25 27.Bd2 *( 27.Re2? f4-+ )* 27...Bxd2 Deflection 28.Qxd2 Rxe6 ]

**27.Qe4= Qxe4 28.Rxe4** Endgame. Now White is okay, although the e6-pawn still requires some care.

Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Now White is okay, although the e6-pawn still requires some care.'' Now White is okay, although the e6-pawn still requires some care. KRB-KRB **28...Kh7 29.f3**

[Building a pawn chain by 29.g4?! Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' fxg3 30.hxg3 was impossible due to h5! and after 31.Re2 -0.87/25 *( 31.Kf1=* -0.06/22 keeps the balance. *)* 31...Kg6∓ 32.Bb2 -1.65/22 Black could find the way to improve his position by *( 32.Kg2∓* -1.07/22 was worth a try. *)* 32...Re7 etc ]

[ Rustam didn't want to play an inferior rook ending after Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Rustam didn't want to play an inferior rook ending after'' Rustam didn't want to play an inferior rook ending after 29.Bxf4 Bxf4 30.Rxf4 Rxe6 31.Kf1 where White had weak pawns and no forced draw. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'where White had weak pawns and no forced draw.''. Prevents Re1+. Re5∓ Krasenkow ]

**29...g5** Krasenkow: '∓!' Krasenkow, Michal: ' ∓!' '∓!' '∓!' Krasenkow,M: ' ∓!' '∓!'

[ 29...Kg6 Krasenkow 30.Bxf4 *( 30.g4 fxg3 31.hxg3 h5 )* 30...Bxf4 31.Rxf4 Rxe6= ]

**30.Kf2 Kg6 31.g4**

[ 31.Bb2 Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov' Kf5 32.g4+ fxg3+ 33.hxg3 was also possible: h5! *( 33...Rxe6??* 10.02/29 33...h5 -0.60 *34.g4+ )* 34.Re1! Black couldn't win the e6-pawn so easily, e.g., a6 -0.19/20 *( 34...g4!∓* -0.72/20 *35.Rh1 Kg6 )* 35.a4!= g4 36.Rh1! Rxe6 Strongly threatening ...Bc5+. 37.Rxh5+ Kg6 38.fxg4 Re4 39.Kf3 Rxc4 40.a5 b5 41.Rf5 Rc2?! 42.Rf6+ Kh7 43.Bd4 and White's piece activity together with a strong passed pawn protects him from losing. However, it is possible that Black's play would be improved. and White's piece activity together with a strong passed pawn protects him from losing. However, it is possible that Black's play would be improved. ]

**31...Kf6** Krasenkow: '?!' Krasenkow, Michal: '?!' '?!' '?!' Krasenkow,M: '?!' '?!' Krasenkow: 'A serious positional inaccuracy. There was no reason to allow White to fix the black pawns on dark squares.'

[ ⌓31...fxg3+ Krasenkow 32.hxg3 h5!∓ ]

**32.Bb2+ Ke7 33.h4!** Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '!''. Bg7 would now be deadly. **33...gxh4?** A serious mistake - Black disconnects his pawns, thus creating many weaknesses. Krasenkow: '?!' Krasenkow,Michal: '?!' '?!' '?!' Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: '?' R.Scherbakov: 'A serious mistake - Black disconnects his pawns, thus creating many weaknesses. '' Krasenkow,M: '?!' '?!' A serious mistake - Black disconnects his pawns, thus creating many weaknesses.Krasenkow: 'An unnecessary concession. After'

[ Black could have simply maintained the position by Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'Black could have simply maintained the position by'' 33...Bc5+ Krasenkow,Michal: '!?' '!?' '!?' Krasenkow,M: '!?' '!?'Krasenkow, Michal: 'was even simpler:' 34.Kg2

**A)** 34...Rd8 Krasenkow 35.Bg7 Rd2+ 36.Kh1! *( 36.Kh3??* -#6/18 *36.Kh1* 0.00 *Bg1 )* 36...Rxa2!? *( 36...Rd1+= )* 37.Bxh6 gxh4

38.Bg5+ Ke8 39.Bxf4∞;

**B)** 34...Rg8 although after Krasenkow,Michal: '(R.Scherbakov) although after'. Wards off Bg7 35.h5 he was unable to make progress due to the weakness of the h6-pawn. he was unable to make progress due to the weakness of the h6-pawn. ]

[ 33...Rg8!? Krasenkow 34.h5 Bb4= White can't break through. ]

**34.Bg7 h3**

[ 34...Bc5+? 3.42/24 34...Rg8 0.32 Krasenkow is now too late: 35.Kg2 Rd8 36.Bxh6 Rd2+ 37.Kh3 Rxa2 38.Bg5+ Ke8 39.Bxf4± ]

[ 34...Rg8 simplifies 35.Bxh6 Rg6 36.Bxf4 Bxf4 37.Rxf4 Rxe6 38.a4 Re5 ]

**35.Kg1 Bc5+?!** Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: '?!''

[ In case of Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov: 'In case of'' 35...Rg8 36.Bxh6 Rg6 37.Bxf4 Bxf4 38.Rxf4 Kh2 is the strong threat.

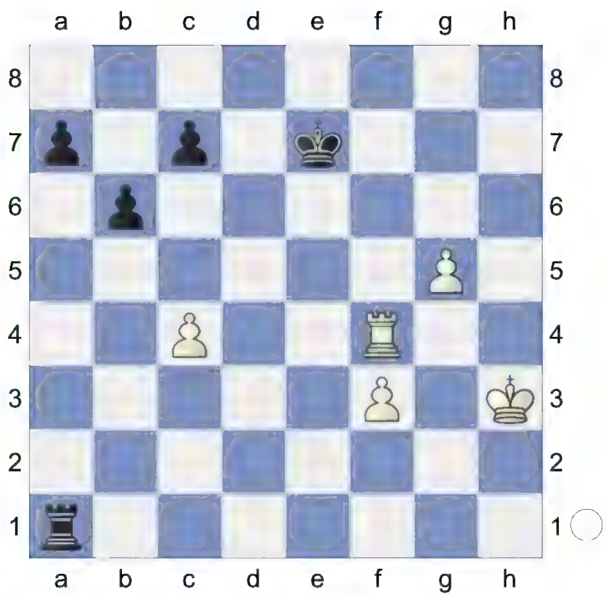
**A)** 38...Rxe6 Krasenkow 39.Kh2 Re2+ 40.Kxh3 Rxa2 41.g5 Threatens to win with g6. Ra1? 5.03/21 ( *41...Re2±* 0.71/23 is a better chance. )

(Diagram)

42.Kg4!+- a5 43.Kf5±;

**B)** 38...Rxe6⩲ 0.58/23 39.Kh2 Re2+ 40.Kxh3 Rxa2;

**C)** 38...Kxe6? 2.09/25 Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' 39.Kh2 Black was a pawn down in the rook ending. However, the text-move is even worse. Black was a pawn down in the rook ending. However, the text-move is even worse. ]



**36.Kh2 Rd8! 37.Bxh6 Rd3 38.Kxh3?** White returns the favour! Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: '?' R. Scherbakov: 'White returns the favour!''

[After 38.Bg5+ Krasenkow: '⌓' Krasenkow,Michal: ' ⌓''⌓''⌓' Krasenkow,M: ' ⌓''⌓' Ke8 39.Bxf4 aiming for g5. Rxf3 40.Bxc7 he had real winning chances, for example, Krasenkow: 'winning a pawn and keeping pressure, e.g.'

**A)** 40...Be3 0.88/22 40...Be7 0.42 Krasenkow 41.a4! 0.42/22 ( *41.Bg3± 0.88/22* ) 41...Bg5 1.11/19 ( *41...a5⩲ 0.42/22* )

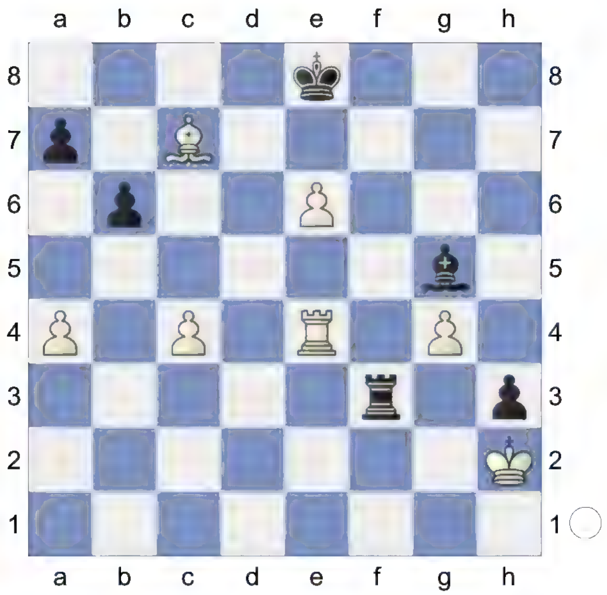
(Diagram)

42.Bg3± 0.75/19 ( *⌓42.a5!* 1.11/19 );

**B)** 40...Be7⩲ 0.36/23;

**C)** 40...Ke7? 2.90/21 Krasenkow, Michal: 'R.Scherbakov' 41.g5+- Re3? 6.88/22 ( *41...Rf5* 2.76/21 *42.Bg3 Ke8* ) 42.Rxe3+- Bxe3 43.g6 Threatening mate with g7.

**C1)** 43...Kxe6 44.Be5! 0.03/25 ( *44.Kxh3!+-* 3.54/26 *Kf6 45.Kg4* );



C2) 43...Bd4 44.Kxh3 Kxe6 45.Kg4 etc ]

**38...Rxf3+** The position is equal. **39.Kh4 Re3** Now the position becomes equal. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Now the position becomes equal.''

[ 39...Bd6!? Krasenkow ]

**40.Bg5+**

[ 40.Rxf4 Kxe6 41.g5 Re2 ]

[ 40.Rxf4 simplifies Kxe6 41.g5 Re2 42.a4 ]

**40...Ke8 41.Rxe3**

[After 41.Rxf4 Krasenkow,Michal: 'R. Scherbakov'. next Rf6 is good for White. Rxe6 Black could not be worse. ]

**41...fxe3** KB-KB **42.Kg3! e2 43.Bd2 Ke7 44.Kf3 Kxe6 45.Kxe2 c6 46.Bf4 Be7 47.Kd3 b5 48.cxb5** Draw agreed. Krasenkow,Michal: 'R.Scherbakov: 'Draw agreed.''.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.09 (flawless) /Black=0.09 (flawless)

½-½

**D24**

☐ **10 Best Games of the Golden S**

■ **Ding,Liren**

*[Kitty Kat]*

Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. Open tournament page This game was played in the penultimate round of the Olympiad in Batumi, Georgia. Duda is a 20-year-old up and coming Grandmaster, who won the Polish Championship in 2018. Ding's win in this game helped China to a decisive 3-1 victory over Poland, which was a key result in their overall success in the Olympiad. D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4**

**5.e4** **b5** An interesting and slightly offbeat idea that is becoming trendy at the top level. Black more usually plays 5...Bb4 where the game continues with something like 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3 9.bxc3 An interesting and slightly offbeat idea that is becoming trendy at the top level. Black more usually plays 5...Bb4 where the game continues with something like 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3 9.bxc3 An interesting and slightly offbeat idea that is becoming trendy at the top level. Black more usually plays 5...Bb4 where the game continues with something like 6.Bg5 c5 7.Bxc4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bxc3 9.bxc3 An interesting and slightly offbeat idea that is becoming trendy at the top level. Black more usually plays 5...Bb4 where the game continues with something like 6.Bg5 c5 7. Bxc4 cxd4 8. Nxd4 Bxc3 9.bxc3 **6.e5** If 6.Nxb5 then 6...Nxe4 7.Nc3 Nd6 with an interesting position, but one where Black should be fine. If 6.Nxb5 then 6...Nxe4 7.Nc3 Nd6 with an interesting position, but one where Black should be fine. If 6. Nxb5 then 6...Nxe4 7.Nc3 Nd6 with an interesting position, but one where Black should be fine. If 6.Nxb5 then 6... Nxe4 7.Nc3 Nd6 with an interesting position, but one where Black should be fine. **6...Nd5** **7.Nxb5** Material is even, and Black has doubled pawns - why isn't White just better? **7...Nb6** Black protects the c-pawn, which stops the light-squared bishop from moving to its best square on d3 - this is enough to keep Black in the game. Black protects the c-pawn, which stops the light-squared bishop from moving to its best square on d3 - this is enough to keep Black in the game. Black protects the c-pawn, which stops the light-squared bishop from moving to its best square on d3 - this is enough to keep Black in the game. Black protects the c-pawn, which stops the light-squared bishop from moving to its best square on d3 - this is enough to keep Black in the game. **8.Be2** White has to be content with moving his bishop only to e2. White has to be content with moving his bishop only to e2. White has to be content with moving his bishop only to e2. White has to be content with moving his bishop only to e2. White is slightly better. White is slightly better. **8...Nc6** **9.0-0** **Be7** **10.Qd2** Previously the main move here had been 10.Be3 where the game continues along the lines of 10...O-O 11.Qc1 Ba6 12.a4 Qd7 where Black is doing fine - White struggles to build up an attack. Instead, Ding decides that it's important to get the queen out to do some work on the kingside, before worrying about the dark-squared bishop. Previously the main move here had been 10.Be3 where the game continues along the lines of 10...O-O 11.Qc1 Ba6 12. a4 Qd7 where Black is doing fine - White struggles to build up an attack. Instead, Ding decides that it's important to get the queen out to do some work on the kingside, before worrying about the dark-squared bishop. Previously the main move here had been 10.Be3 where the game continues along the lines of 10...O-O 11.Qc1 Ba6 12.a4 Qd7 where Black is doing fine - White struggles to build up an attack. Instead, Ding decides that it's important to get the queen out to do some work on the kingside, before worrying about the dark-squared bishop. Previously the main move here had been 10.Be3 where the game continues along the lines of 10...O-O 11.Qc1 Ba6 12. a4 Qd7 where Black is doing fine - White struggles to build up an attack. Instead, Ding decides that it's important to get the queen out to do some work on the kingside, before worrying about the dark-squared bishop. **10...0-0** **11.Qf4** **Rb8** Threatening Nd5 with a double attack on the queen and the knight. **12.Nc3** Now, Ding's simple idea is to play Qg4 threatening Bh6 with a tremendous attack - all of his pieces can move towards the kingside. Now, Ding's simple idea is to play Qg4 threatening Bh6 with a tremendous attack - all of his pieces can move towards the kingside. Now, Ding's simple idea is to play Qg4 threatening Bh6 with a tremendous attack - all of his pieces can move towards the kingside. Now, Ding's simple idea is to play Qg4 threatening Bh6 with a tremendous attack - all of his pieces can move towards the kingside. **12...f5** Duda chooses to stop Qg4 Duda chooses to stop Qg4 Duda chooses to stop Qg4 Duda chooses to stop Qg4 **13.Qg3** 13.exf6 is possible, leaving Black's structure in a mess - but after 13...Rxf6 14.Qd2 Bb7 Black looks to have sufficient piece play to compensate. Ding plays it safer, but leaves the position slightly more blocked. 13.exf6 is possible, leaving Black's structure in a mess - but after 13...Rxf6 14.Qd2 Bb7 Black looks to have sufficient piece play to compensate. Ding plays it safer, but leaves the position slightly more blocked. 13.exf6 is possible, leaving Black's structure in a mess - but after 13...Rxf6 14.Qd2 Bb7 Black looks to have sufficient piece play to compensate. 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Ding is trying to free his bishop, at the expense of loosening his own pawn structure. **15...cxb3** **16.axb3** **a6** **17.Bc4** **Nc2** **18.Ra2** **Nb4** **19.Ra1** -0.01/18

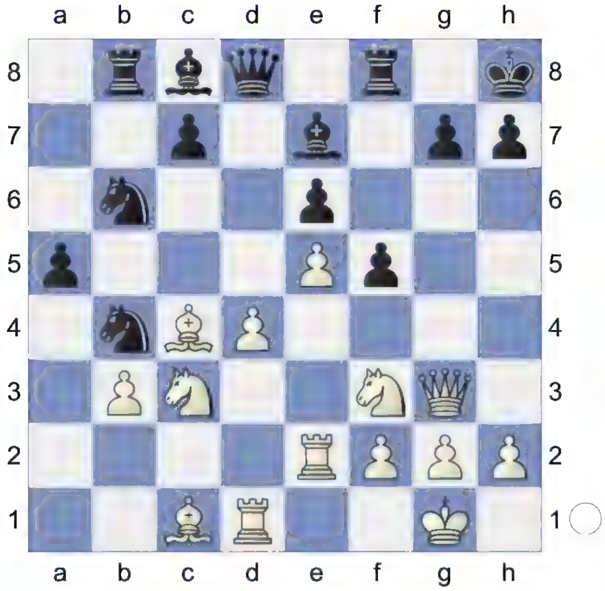
[ 19.Rb2± 0.31/21 ]

**19...Nc2!=** **20.Ra2** -0.01/19

[ 20.Rb1!± 0.42/22 might be stronger. ]

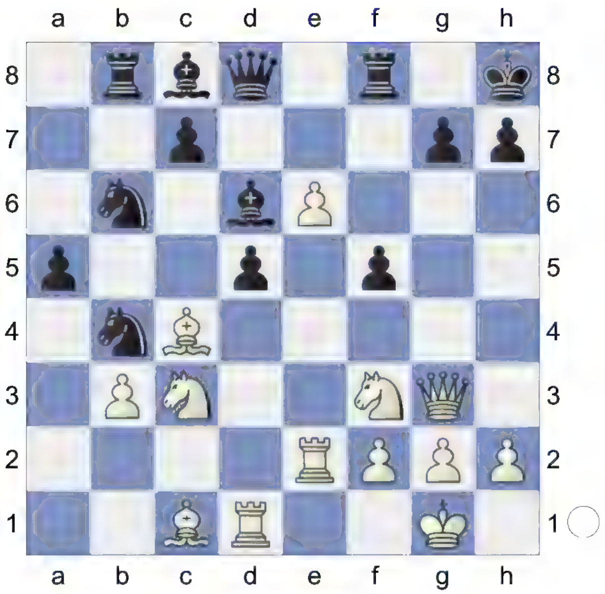
**20...Nb4** The players could have simply repeated the moves again here and gone away with a well-played draw. The players could have simply repeated the moves again here and gone away with a well-played draw. The players could have simply repeated the moves again here and gone away with a well-played draw. The players could have simply repeated the moves again here and gone away with a well-played draw.

**21.Re2** But Ding wants to play for more. But Ding wants to play for more. But Ding wants to play for more. But Ding wants to play for more. **21...a5**



**22.d5!** A really aggressive and double-edged move! Ding detonates the centre - as he has only three pieces hitting d5 where Duda has four pieces defending, this is a bona fide pawn sacrifice. Ding's idea is to open up more kingside attacking possibilities and gain a passed e-pawn. A really aggressive and double-edged move! Ding detonates the centre - as he has only three pieces hitting d5 where Duda has four pieces defending, this is a bona fide pawn sacrifice. Ding's idea is to open up more kingside attacking possibilities and gain a passed e-pawn. A really aggressive and double-edged move! Ding detonates the centre - as he has only three pieces hitting d5 where Duda has four pieces defending, this is a bona fide pawn sacrifice. Ding's idea is to open up more kingside attacking possibilities and gain a passed e-pawn. A really aggressive and double-edged move! Ding detonates the centre - as he has only three pieces hitting d5 where Duda has four pieces defending, this is a bona fide pawn sacrifice. Ding's idea is to open up more kingside attacking possibilities and gain a passed e-pawn. **22...exd5** Instead he could swap off a few pieces by taking with the knights 22...N6xd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24. Bg5 Bxg5 25.Nxg5 where White has clear compensation for the pawn but perhaps no more than that. Instead he could swap off a few pieces by taking with the knights 22...N6xd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bg5 Bxg5 25.Nxg5 where White has clear compensation for the pawn but perhaps no more than that. Instead he could swap off a few pieces by taking with the knights 22...N6xd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bg5 Bxg5 25.Nxg5 where White has clear compensation for the pawn but perhaps no more than that. Instead he could swap off a few pieces by taking with the knights 22...N6xd5 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bg5 Bxg5 25.Nxg5 where White has clear compensation for the pawn but perhaps no more than that. White must now prevent ...Bc8-e6. **23.e6!** Opening up the e5 square for the knight and restricting Black's light-squared bishop. Opening up the e5 square for the knight and restricting Black's light-squared bishop. Opening up the e5 square for the knight and restricting Black's light-squared bishop. Opening up the e5 square for the knight and restricting Black's light-squared bishop. And now Bb5 would win. **23...Bd6** 0.97/21 Directly threatening the queen and indirectly the bishop on c4, by blocking the pin on the d-file. It looks as if Ding could have over-played his hand. Directly threatening the queen and indirectly the bishop on c4, by blocking the pin on the d-file. It looks as if Ding could have over-played his hand. Directly threatening the queen and indirectly the bishop on c4, by blocking the pin on the d-file. It looks as if Ding could have over-played his hand.

[ 23...Rf6!= -0.15/21 ]
[ 23...Rf6!= 0.13/20 ]



Directly threatening the queen and indirectly the bishop on c4, by blocking the pin on the d-file. It looks as if Ding could have over-played his hand. **24.Qh3N** 0.51/23 Of course, Ding had considered Bd6 - he steps out of the way and takes up an aggressive position with his queen. Duda doesn't have time to take the bishop with 24...dxc4 because 25.Ng5 wins everything - 25...h6 26. Nf7+ Rxf7 27.exf7 threatening Re8+ as well as Bxh6. Of course, Ding had considered Bd6 - he steps out of the way and takes up an aggressive position with his queen. Duda doesn't have time to take the bishop with 24...dxc4 because 25.Ng5 wins everything - 25...h6 26. Nf7+ Rxf7 27.exf7 threatening Re8+ as well as Bxh6. Of course, Ding had considered Bd6 - he steps out of the way and takes up an aggressive position with his queen. Duda doesn't have time to take the bishop with 24...dxc4 because 25.Ng5 wins everything - 25...h6 26. Nf7+ Rxf7 27.exf7 threatening Re8+ as well as Bxh6. Of course, Ding had considered Bd6 - he steps out of the way and takes up an aggressive position with his queen. Duda doesn't have time to take the bishop with 24...dxc4 because 25.Ng5 wins everything - 25...h6 26. Nf7+ Rxf7 27.exf7 threatening Re8+ as well as Bxh6. &Bianco is much more active. White has more active pieces.

[ 24.Bf4!± 0.94/23 Strongly threatening e6-e7! Qf6 1.58/23 *( 24...Bxf4 25.Qxf4; 24...Rb7* 1.37/20 24...Bxf4 0.80 *25.Nb5! Bxf4 26.Qxf4 Qe7 27.Bd3* ÜBERSICHT Pleven BUL 2018 200 Traps In The Opening [Nyback/Meyer,CD]; *⌓24...Bxf4* 0.88/22 *25.Qxf4 Qe7 26.Bxd5 Rf6 )* 25.Bxd6± cxd6 26.Qxd6 Bxe6 27.Rxe6 Qxc3 28.Bb5 1.00/20 *( ⌓28.Bf1* 1.58/20 *)*]

[ 24.Bg5? Bxg3 25.Bxd8 Rxd8-+ *( 25...dxc4 26.e7 )*]

[ 24.Bf4± 0.97/21 Qe7 *( 24...dxc4? 25.e7+- )* 25.Bxd6 *( 25.Bxd5 Ba6±; 25.Nxd5 N4xd5 26.Bxd6 cxd6= )* 25...cxd6 26.Bb5 *( 26.Nxd5 N4xd5 27.Bxd5 Nxd5=; 26.Bxd5 N4xd5 27.Nxd5 Nxd5= )*]

**24...Qf6±** But Duda is still well in the game - this is the best move in the position, defending the kingside and threatening the knight on c3. And the bishop on c4 is still en prise! But Duda is still well in the game - this is the best move in the position, defending the kingside and threatening the knight on c3. And the bishop on c4 is still en prise! But Duda is still well in the game - this is the best move in the position, defending the kingside and threatening the knight on c3. And the bishop on c4 is still en prise! But Duda is still well in the game - this is the best move in the position, defending the kingside and threatening the knight on c3. And the bishop on c4 is still en prise!

[ 24...dxc4? 3.16/22 24...f4 0.43 25.Ng5! ( *25.e7?* 1.06/20 25.Ng5 2.94 *Bxe7* aiming for ...Nd3. *26.Rxd8 Bxd8⩲* ) 25...Qxg5 26.Bxg5+- ]

[ 24...Nxc4 25.bxc4 Qf6 26.Nxd5 Nxd5 27.cxd5⩲ ]

[ 24...dxc4? 25.Ng5+- ( *25.e7 Bxe7 26.Rxd8 Bxd8±; 25.e7 Bxe7 26.Rxd8 Bxd8* )]

**25.Nb5!** Ding goes all in, sacrificing a piece Ding goes all in, sacrificing a piece Ding goes all in, sacrificing a piece Ding goes all in, sacrificing a piece. Bc1-b2 is the strong threat. Some like it hot

[Much weaker is 25.Ng5 -0.33/21 25.Nb5 0.19 h6 26.Nf7+! ( *26.Bxd5?* -2.80/25 26.Nf7+ -0.40 *N6xd5 27.Nxd5 Nxd5-+* ) 26...Rxf7! 27.exf7 Qxf7⩱ ]

**25...dxc4** 0.68/21

[ 25...Nxc4= 0.12/24 keeps the balance. 26.Ng5 0.04/23 ( *26.bxc4⩲* 0.40/23 is more appropriate. *Bxe6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.Bg5* ) 26...Qg6!= 27.bxc4 Black must now prevent Nxd6. f4! 28.Nxd6 cxd6 ]

[ 25...Nxc4= 0.18/24 26.Ng5 Qg6 27.bxc4 f4 28.Nxd6 cxd6 ]

**26.Nxd6** -0.66/24 26.Ng5 might be even better - 26...Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 Re8 29.Rxd6 f4 30.Qh4 Qb1 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! where 32...gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qf7+ Kh8 is met by the unbelievable 35.Rc2!! Qxc2 36.Bb2+ c3 37.Bxc3+ Qxc3 38.Qxh7#. 26.Ng5 might be even better - 26...Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 Re8 29.Rxd6 f4 30.Qh4 Qb1 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! where 32...gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qf7+ Kh8 is met by the unbelievable 35.Rc2!! Qxc2 36.Bb2+ c3 37.Bxc3+ Qxc3 38.Qxh7#. 26.Ng5 might be even better - 26...Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 Re8 29.Rxd6 f4 30.Qh4 Qb1 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! where 32...gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qf7+ Kh8 is met by the unbelievable 35.Rc2!! Qxc2 36.Bb2+ c3 37.Bxc3+ Qxc3 38.Qxh7#. 26.Ng5 might be even better - 26...Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 Re8 29.Rxd6 f4 30.Qh4 Qb1 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! where 32...gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qf7+ Kh8 is met by the unbelievable 35.Rc2!! Qxc2 36.Bb2+ c3 37.Bxc3+ Qxc3 38.Qxh7#.

[White must play 26.Ng5!± 0.85/23 Qg6? 2.05/18 (Better is *26...h6⩲* 0.51/24 *27.Nxd6 cxd6* ) 27.Nxd6+- cxd6 28.e7 2.14/22 ( *⌓28.Rxd6* 1.63/20 *f4 29.Qh4* )]

[White has to play 26.Ng5!⩲ 0.68/21 Qg6 27.Nxd6 cxd6 28.e7 ]

**26...cxd6??** 2.52/23 Instead, Black can play 26...Bxe6 where his position just about hangs together despite White continuing his attack - White has compensation for the material sacrificed, but there's no clear win. Instead, Black can play 26...Bxe6 where his position just about hangs together despite White continuing his attack - White has compensation for the material sacrificed, but there's no clear win. Instead, Black can play 26...Bxe6 where his position just about hangs together despite White continuing his attack - White has compensation for the material sacrificed, but there's no clear win. Instead, Black can play 26...Bxe6 where his position just about hangs together despite White continuing his attack - White has compensation for the material sacrificed, but there's no clear win. Black cannot hold the game after this.

[ 26...Bxe6= -0.01/22 27.Bg5 *( 27.Ng5? Bg8-+ )* 27...Qg6 ]

[ 26...Bxe6∓ -0.66/24 stays ahead. 27.Nxc4 Bxc4 *( 27...Nxc4 28.bxc4 Nc6 29.Bg5∓ )* 28.bxc4 Nxc4 ]

**27.e7!+-** And now Nf3-g5 would win. Hoping for Ng5. **27...Re8** 2.07/20

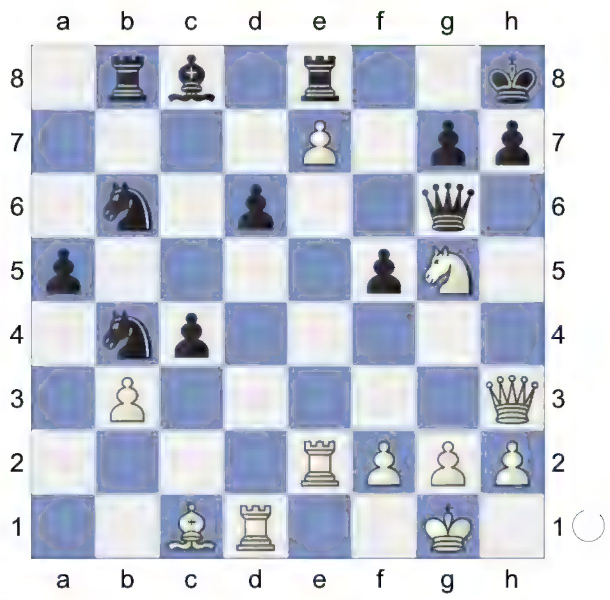
[ 27...Bd7± 1.03/24 might work better. ]

[ 27...cxb3? 28.Ng5 *( 28.e8B? f4-+; 28.exf8B Qxf8 29.Ng5* Discovered Attack *h6+- )* 28...h6 29.Bb2+- *( 29.e8B? f4-+; 29.e8Q Bd7+-; 29.exf8B f4+-; 29.exf8N Qxf8+-; 29.exf8Q+ Qxf8+- )*]

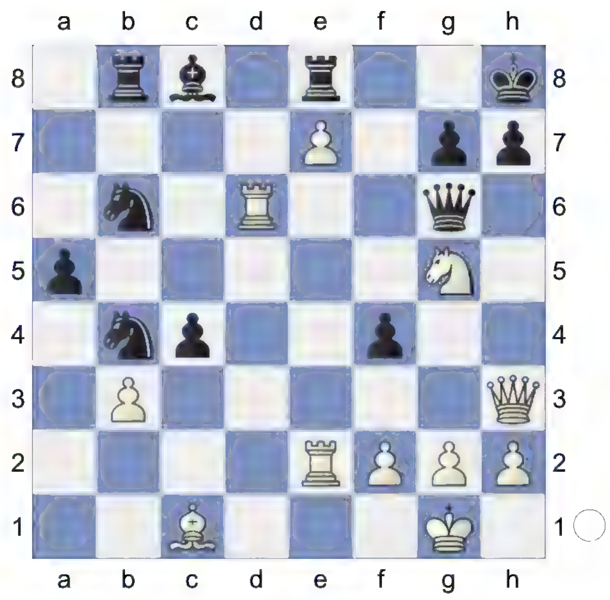
**28.Ng5! Qg6**

[ 28...Rxe7 29.Qxh7# ]

[ 28...h6 29.Qh5 Bd7 *( 29...Rxe7 30.Qe8+* Back Rank *Rxe8 31.Rxe8+ )* 30.Rxd6+- ]



**29.Rxd6** Deflection **29...f4**



**30.Qh4→** White has strong attack. **30...Qb1**

[ 30...Qf5? 31.Qh5 *( 31.Bxf4 Qb1+; 31.Re5 Qc2= )* 31...Bd7 32.Rh6 *( 32.Rxd7?! Nxd7 33.Nf7+* Discovered Attack *Qxf7+- )* 32...gxh6 33.Nf7++- ]

**31.Re1** 0.63/23 This move gives White a good advantage, but again 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34. Qf7+ Kh8 35.Rc2!! is a winning combination. This move gives White a good advantage, but again 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34. Qf7+ Kh8 35.Rc2!! is a winning combination. This move gives White a good advantage, but again 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34. Qf7+ Kh8 35.Rc2!! is a winning combination. This move gives White a good advantage, but again 31.Qxf4 Bd7 32.Rf6! gxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kg8 34.Qf7+ Kh8 35. Rc2!! is a winning combination. Really sharp!

[ 31.Qxf4+- 2.23/25 Qf4-f8+ would kill now. Bd7 Threatens to win with ... N6d5.

**A)** 32.bxc4? 0.00/21 32.Rf6 2.55

N6d5∓ ( *32...Nd3!? 33.Rg6□ Nxc1 34.Nf7+ Kg8 35.Nh6+ Kh8 36.Nf7+ Kg8 37.Nh6+ Kh8 38.Nf7+=* );

B) 32.Rf6!+- 2.94/25 White threatens Rf8+ and mate. Kg8 33.Rxb6 Back Rank, Promotion;

C) 32.Nf7+? -0.26/5 32...Kg8= ...Nd3 would now be deadly. 33.Re5! ]

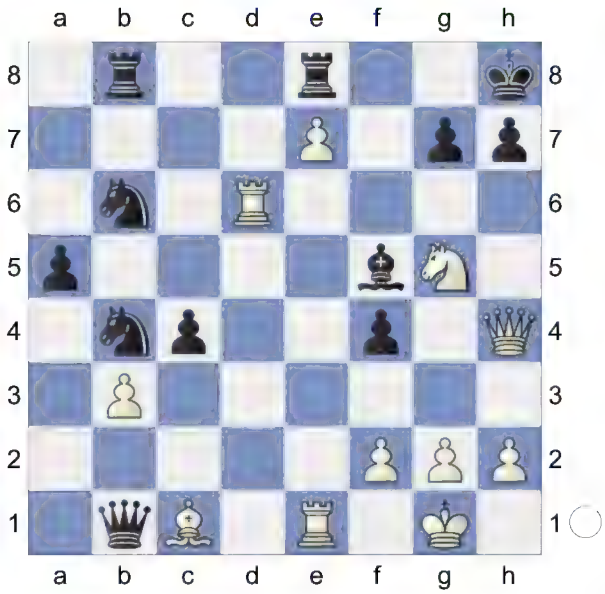
[ 31.Nf7+ Kg8 32.Re1 ( *32.Qxf4? Bf5-+* ) 32...Bd7-+ ( *32...Kxf7 33.Qh5+±; 32...Qf5 33.Nh6+ gxh6 34.Bxf4∓* )]

**31...Bf5?** 4.31/19

[ 31...cxb3? 6.16/20 31...Bd7 0.73 32.Rd8 Bd7 ...Qf5 is the strong threat. 33.Rxb8+- ]

[ 31...Bd7!± 0.63/23 32.Bd2 Threatening mate with Rh6. Qf5 ]

[ 31...Bd7 1.77/23 might work better. ]



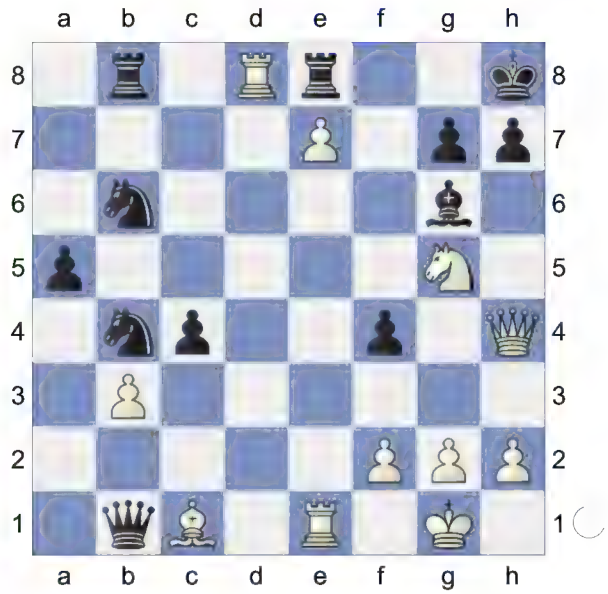
Adding a defender to h7. But 31...Bd7 is more resilient. Adding a defender to h7. But 31...Bd7 is more resilient. Adding a defender to h7. But 31...Bd7 is more resilient. Adding a defender to h7. But 31...Bd7 is more resilient. Black cannot hold the game after this. **32.Rd8!+-** White threatens Rd8xb8 and mate.

[ 32.Qxf4 N6d5 ( *32...cxb3? 33.Rd8+-* ) 33.Rxd5 Nxd5+- ]

**32...Bg6?** 8.07/22 32...Rbxd8 33. exd8=Q Rxd8 34.Nf7+ wins trivially 32...Rbxd8 33.exd8=Q Rxd8 34.Nf7+ wins trivially 32...Rbxd8 33.exd8=Q Rxd8 34.Nf7+ wins trivially

[ 32...Nc6 3.84/22 ]

[ ⌓32...Nc6 4.17/19 ]



32...Rbxd8 33. exd8=Q Rxd8 34.Nf7+ wins trivially **33.Rxb8!** White is clearly winning. White is clearly winning.

[ 33.Qxf4? perishes. Rbxd8 ( *33...Rexd8? 34.Nf7+ Bxf7 35.exd8B-+* ) 34.exd8R Rxd8-+ ]

[ 33.Nxh7 Kg8 34.Nf8 cxb3-+ ( *34...Rbxd8 35.Nxg6-+* )]

**33...Rxb8 34.Qxf4** Qf8+ would kill now.

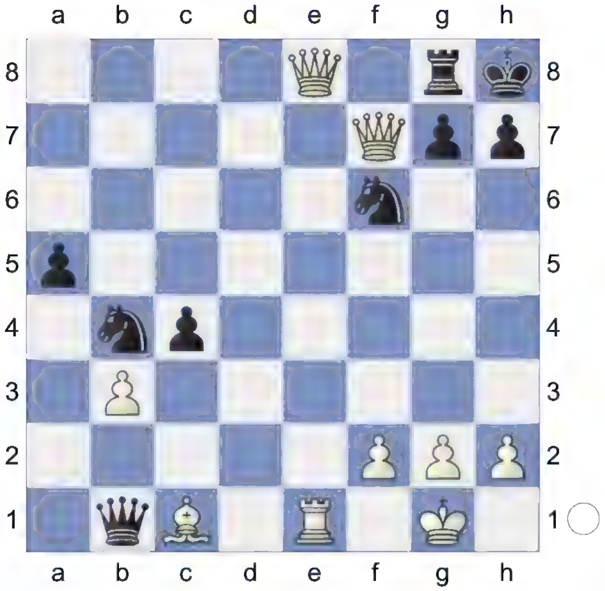
[Avoid the trap 34.Nxh7? -3.00/22 34.Qxf4 4.97 Kg8 35.Nf8 cxb3-+ ]

**34...Rg8** Hoping for ...Nb6-d5. Strongly threatening ...N6d5. **35.Nf7+**

[ 35.bxc4 Nc8 36.Nf7+ Bxf7 37.Qxf7

Nd6+- ]

**35...Bxf7** **36.Qxf7** There's no way for Black to stop the pawn. **36...Nd7** **37.e8Q** **Nf6**



**38.Bg5!** Black had no chances remaining and resigned here. An energetic game from Ding, not fearing complications and calculating accurately to the end. Though I think we'd all have loved to see the Rc2!! combination appear on the board! Black had no chances remaining and resigned here. An energetic game from Ding, not fearing complications and calculating accurately to the end. Though I think we'd all have loved to see the Rc2!! combination appear on the board! Black had no chances remaining and resigned here. An energetic game from Ding, not fearing complications and calculating accurately to the end. Though I think we'd all have loved to see the Rc2!! combination appear on the board! Black had no chances remaining and resigned here. An energetic game from Ding, not fearing complications and calculating accurately to the end. Though I think we'd all have loved to see the Rc2!! combination appear on the board!

Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.35.

Weighted Error Value: White=0.13 (very precise) /Black=0.39

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **4. Endgame Play**

■ **Mishra,Abhimanyu**

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Glenn Flear: 'Mon Hokmome: 'D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3" **1.d4** **Nf6** **2.c4** **e6** **3.Nf3** **d5** **4.Nc3** **dxc4** **5.e4** **b5** **6.e5** **Nd5** **7.Nxb5** **Nb6** **8.Be2** White is slightly better. White is slightly better. **8...Nc6** **9.0-0** **Be7** Up to here it is still pretty standard theory. Up to here it is still pretty standard theory. Up to here it is still pretty standard theory. Up to here it is still pretty standard theory. **10.Qd2** This is one of the moves, aiming to transfer the queen to the kingside. This is one of the moves, aiming to transfer the queen to the kingside. This is one of the moves, aiming to transfer the queen to the kingside. This is one of the moves, aiming to transfer the queen to the kingside. **10...0-0** **11.Qf4** **Rb8** **12.Nc3** 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Was also possible, but I saw no reason to not bring back the misplaced knight. 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Was also possible, but I saw no reason to not bring back the misplaced knight. 12.Qg3 Kh8 13.Rd1 Was also possible, but I saw no reason to not bring back the misplaced knight. 12.Qg3 Kh8 13. Rd1 Was also possible, but I saw no reason to not bring back the misplaced knight. **12...Nb4**

[ 12...Bb7 13.Qg3 Kh8! 14.Rd1 f5 0.86/20 ( *14...Nb4=* 0.24/18 ) 15.exf6± Bxf6 16.Bg5 0.29/20 ( *16.Bf4!±* 0.89/18 *Rc8 17.b3* ) 16...Nb4 17.h4 -0.06/22 (White should play *17.b3⩲* 0.57/23 ) 17...Bxf3= 18.Bxf3 Nc2 19.Rac1 Nxd4 20.Be4 c5 21.Qg4 -0.96/20 ( *21.Bf4!=* -0.19/20 ) 21...Bxg5 -0.20/20 ( *21...Nd5∓* -0.96/20 ...Bxg5 is the strong threat. *22.Qh5 g6 23.Bxg6 Rb7* ) 22.hxg5= g6 23.g3 -1.29/22 ( *23.Qg3=* -0.25/19 *Kg8 24.Rb1* ) 23...Qe7 -0.69/21 ( *23...Nd7!∓* -1.29/22 Strongly threatening ...Ne5! *24.f4 Rxb2* ) 24.Kg2 -2.02/19 ( *24.Ne2⩱* -0.69/21 ) 24...Kg8? -0.11/19 ( *24...Nd7-+* -2.02/19 White must now prevent ...Ne5! *25.Rb1 Ne5* ) 25.Rh1? -1.75/20 ( *25.Rd2!=* -0.11/19 ) 25...Rf7 -0.37/19 ( *25...Nd7-+* -1.75/20 Hoping for ...Ne5! *26.Rb1 Ne5* ) 26.Rh6 -1.65/20 (White should try *26.Qh4!⩱* -0.37/19 ) 26...Rbf8 -0.78/20 ( *26...Nd7-+* -1.65/20 and Black stays clearly on top. *27.Bxg6 hxg6* ) 27.Rf1 Gutperle,M (2514)-7.Bh4 b6 (2553) Garmisch Partenkirchen 2023 CHECK99 [John Watson] 0-1 (65) Nf5 28.Rhh1 Qd6 29.Bb1 Qd2 30.Qe2 Qxe2 31.Nxe2 e5 32.Nc3 Nd4 33.Ne4 Na4 34.Nf6+ Rxf6 35.gxf6 Nxb2 36.Rc1 Rxf6 37.Be4 Rd6 38.Rc3 Nb5 39.Rc2 c3 40.a4 Nxa4 41.Ra1 Nb2 42.Ra5 0-1 (65) Gutperle,M (2514)-7. ♗h4 b6 (2553) Garmisch Partenkirchen rapid 1994 (8) ]

[ 12...f5 13.Qg3 Kh8 14.Rd1 Nb4 15.b3 cxb3 16.axb3 a6 17.Bc4 Nc2 18.Ra2 Nb4 19.Ra1 Nc2 20.Ra2 Nb4 21.Re2 a5 22.d5 exd5 23.e6 Bd6 24.Qh3 Qf6 25.Nb5 dxc4 26.Nxd6 cxd6 27.e7 (38) Ding,L (2679)-Gomez,J (2507) City 115/(159) 2012 ]

**13.Rd1 Bb7 14.Qg3** A logical move, but not the best one. 14.Qg4! Kh8 15. Ng5! h6 16.Nge4+= was better for White with good attacking chances as the queen can go to h5 and put pressure on h6. A logical move, but not the best one. 14.Qg4! Kh8 15.Ng5! h6 16. Nge4+= was better for White with good attacking chances as the queen can go to h5 and put pressure on h6. A logical move, but not the best one. 14.Qg4! Kh8 15.Ng5! h6 16.Nge4+= was better for White with good attacking chances as the queen can go to h5 and put pressure on h6. A logical move, but not the best one. 14.Qg4! Kh8 15.Ng5! h6 16.Nge4+= was better for White with good attacking chances as the queen can go to h5 and put pressure on h6. aiming for Bh6. **14...Kh8!**

[ 14...Nc2? 15.Bh6 g6 16.Rac1+- ]

**15.Be3N** 15.Ng5? This fails with the queen on g3, since she does not protect d4 from there: 15...Nc2 16.Rb1 Nxd4∓ And the center falls apart. 15.Ng5? This fails with the queen on g3, since she does not protect d4 from there: 15...Nc2 16.Rb1 Nxd4∓ And the center falls apart. 15.Ng5? This fails with the queen on g3, since she does not protect d4 from there: 15...Nc2 16.Rb1 Nxd4∓ And the center falls apart. 15.Ng5? This fails with the queen on g3, since she does not protect d4 from there: 15...Nc2 16.Rb1 Nxd4∓ And the center falls apart.

[ 15.a3 -0.53/22 15.Qg4 0.30 Bxf3 16.axb4 Bxe2 17.Nxe2 Nd5 Inhibits Qc3. 18.Nf4 Rxb4 7

6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 ]

[ 15.Rb1 N4d5 16.Bd2 Nxc3 17.Bxc3 Bd5 18.b3 Be4 19.Ra1 Nd5 6) Vienna - Main Line 5.e4 b5-Vienna – 5.e4 b5 6.e5 Nd5 7 ]

**15...Qd7** 0.27/21 15...Nc2!? This was also possible, going after the bishop pair: 16.Rac1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 f6∞ with unclear play. 15...Nc2!? This was also possible, going after the bishop pair: 16.Rac1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 f6∞ with unclear play. 15...Nc2!? This was also possible, going after the bishop pair: 16.Rac1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 f6∞ with unclear play. 15...Nc2!? This was also possible, going after the bishop pair: 16.Rac1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 f6∞ with unclear play.

[ 15...Nc2= -0.01/20 ]

[ ⌓15...Nc2 -0.12/19 16.Rab1 Nxe3 17.fxe3 Nd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 ]

**16.Nd2±** **Ba6** 16...Nd3? The tactics favour White here: 17.b3! Nb2 18.Rdb1 Bb4 19.Nde4+- And the knight on b2 is stuck. 16...Nd3? The tactics favour White here: 17.b3! Nb2 18.Rdb1 Bb4 19.Nde4+- And the knight on b2 is stuck. 16...Nd3? The tactics favour White here: 17.b3! Nb2 18.Rdb1 Bb4 19.Nde4+- And the knight on b2 is stuck. 16...Nd3? The tactics favour White here: 17.b3! Nb2 18.Rdb1 Bb4 19.Nde4+- And the knight on b2 is stuck. **17.Rab1** 0.14/25 Defending b2 against any ...Na4 tricks. 17.a3!? This leads to some complications. 17...Nc2 17...Nd3 18.b3 cxb3 19.Nde4! 19.Nxb3? Na4= The knight on b3 is now hanging, and things are ok for Black. Nb2 20.Bxa6 Nxd1 21.Rxd1± This is better for White. The bishop can retreat to d3 and the white pieces are just much more active. 18.Rac1 Nxe3 18...Nxd4? 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Nde4+- The queen is trapped! 19.Qxe3 Rfd8 This would be the best way of playing for Black, with a dynamic but equal position. Defending b2 against any ...Na4 tricks. 17.a3!? This leads to some complications. 17...Nc2 17...Nd3 18.b3 cxb3 19.Nde4! 19.Nxb3? Na4= The knight on b3 is now hanging, and things are ok for Black. Nb2 20.Bxa6 Nxd1 21.Rxd1± This is better for White. The bishop can retreat to d3 and the white pieces are just much more active. 18.Rac1 Nxe3 18...Nxd4? 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Nde4+- The queen is trapped! 19.Qxe3 Rfd8 This would be the best way of playing for Black, with a dynamic but equal position. Defending b2 against any ...Na4 tricks. 17.a3!? This leads to some complications. 17...Nc2 17...Nd3 18.b3 cxb3 19.Nde4! 19.Nxb3? Na4= The knight on b3 is now hanging, and things are ok for Black. Nb2 20.Bxa6 Nxd1 21.Rxd1± This is better for White. The bishop can retreat to d3 and the white pieces are just much more active. 18.Rac1 Nxe3 18...Nxd4? 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Nde4+- The queen is trapped! 19.Qxe3 Rfd8 This would be the best way of playing for Black, with a dynamic but equal position. Defending b2 against any ...Na4 tricks. 17.a3!? This leads to some complications. 17... Nc2 17...Nd3 18.b3 cxb3 19.Nde4! 19.Nxb3? Na4= The knight on b3 is now hanging, and things are ok for Black. Nb2 20.Bxa6 Nxd1 21.Rxd1± This is better for White. The bishop can retreat to d3 and the white pieces are just much more active. 18.Rac1 Nxe3 18...Nxd4? 19.Bxd4 Qxd4 20.Nde4+- The queen is trapped! 19.Qxe3 Rfd8 This would be the best way of playing for Black, with a dynamic but equal position.

[White should try 17.h3± 0.24/20 17.a3 0.61 ]

[ 17.Bf1± 0.54/23 ]

**17...Na4= 18.Bxc4** -0.01/21 This looked like the best practical try.

[ 18.Nxc4? -1.59/19 18.Nxa4 0.19 Nxc3! 19.bxc3 Nd5∓ ]

[ 18.Nxa4!± 0.32/20 Qxa4 19.b3 ( *19.Bxc4 Bxc4 20.b3 Bxb3=; 19.Nxc4?* -2.55/23 19.b3 0.20 *Nxa2 20.b3 Nc3-+* ) 19...cxb3 20.axb3! ]

[ 18.Nxc4 Nxc3 19.bxc3 Nd5∓ ]

**18...Bxc4 19.Nxc4 Qc6** Now Black is always going to be slightly worse, because his compensation for the pawn is fading. 19...Nxc3! 20.bxc3 Nd5! This was probably what he missed. 20...Nxa2? 21.Bd2+- and the knight on a2 looks miserable. 21.Bd2 Rxb1 22. Rxb1 Qa4! The key move, regaining the pawn. 23.Qd3 Qxa2= with equality.

Now Black is always going to be slightly worse, because his compensation for the pawn is fading. 19...Nxc3! 20.bxc3 Nd5! This was probably what he missed. 20...Nxa2? 21.Bd2+- and the knight on a2 looks miserable. 21.Bd2 Rxb1 22. Rxb1 Qa4! The key move, regaining the pawn. 23.Qd3 Qxa2= with equality.

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... Na4xc3 is the strong threat. **20.Nxa4 Qxc4 21.Rdc1** 21.a3? Nd5 22.b4?? 22.Nc3 This is now best, but is slightly worse for White after 22...Nxc3 23.bxc3 Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Bxa3 The difference in queen activity leaves Black with the preferred position. Qc2 23.Nc5 Nc3-+ and Black wins material. 21.b3 Qc2 22.Rdc1 22.a3? Nd5=+ And the pawns on a3 and b3 look vulnerable. Qxa2 23.Qf3!? While this is also interesting, I prefer what I did in the game as it allows him to make a mistake by taking on a2.

21.a3? Nd5 22.b4?? 22.Nc3 This is now best, but is slightly worse for White after 22...Nxc3 23.bxc3 Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Bxa3 The difference in queen activity leaves Black with the preferred position. Qc2 23.Nc5 Nc3-+ and Black wins material. 21.b3 Qc2 22.Rdc1 22.a3? Nd5=+ And the pawns on a3 and b3 look vulnerable. Qxa2 23.Qf3!? While this is also interesting, I prefer what I did in the game as it allows him to make a mistake by taking on a2.

21.a3? Nd5 22.b4?? 22. Nc3 This is now best, but is slightly worse for White after 22...Nxc3 23.bxc3

Rxb1 24.Rxb1 Bxa3 The difference in queen activity leaves Black with the preferred position. Qc2 23.Nc5 Nc3-+ and Black wins material. 21.b3 Qc2 22. Rdc1 22.a3? Nd5=+ And the pawns on a3 and b3 look vulnerable. Qxa2 23. Qf3!? While this is also interesting, I prefer what I did in the game as it allows him to make a mistake by taking on a2. **21...Qa6** The right reply. 21... Qxa2?! 22.Ra1! Qb3 23.Rc3 First chasing away the queen and thus not allowing ...Nc2. 23...Qd5 24.Rxc7 Nc6? Trying to trap the rook would lead to trouble now: 25.Nc3! Qc4 26.Qf3+- There are too many threats: the knight on c6 is hanging, the bishop on e7 is loose, there is pressure on f7 and d5 is in the air. Too much to handle! The right reply. 21...Qxa2?! 22.Ra1! Qb3 23. Rc3 First chasing away the queen and thus not allowing ...Nc2. 23...Qd5 24. Rxc7 Nc6? Trying to trap the rook would lead to trouble now: 25.Nc3! Qc4 26.Qf3+- There are too many threats: the knight on c6 is hanging, the bishop on e7 is loose, there is pressure on f7 and d5 is in the air. Too much to handle! The right reply. 21...Qxa2?! 22.Ra1! Qb3 23.Rc3 First chasing away the queen and thus not allowing ...Nc2. 23... Qd5 24.Rxc7 Nc6? Trying to trap the rook would lead to trouble now: 25.Nc3! Qc4 26.Qf3+- There are too many threats: the knight on c6 is hanging, the bishop on e7 is loose, there is pressure on f7 and d5 is in the air. Too much to handle! The right reply. 21...Qxa2?! 22. Ra1! Qb3 23.Rc3 First chasing away the queen and thus not allowing ...Nc2. 23... Qd5 24.Rxc7 Nc6? Trying to trap the rook would lead to trouble now: 25.Nc3! Qc4 26.Qf3+- There are too many threats: the knight on c6 is hanging, the bishop on e7 is loose, there is pressure on f7 and d5 is in the air. Too much to handle! **22.Nc3**

[ 22.Rxc7? -2.66/21 22.Nc3 0.43 Qxa4 23.Rxe7 Nd5-+ ]

[ 22.Rxc7? too greedy. Nd5 23.Rxe7 ( *23.Nc5? Qxa2 24.Rd1 Nxc7-+* ) 23...Qxa4-+ ( *23...Nxe7 24.Nc3* )]

**22...Nxa2 23.Nxa2 Qxa2 24.Ra1** Rushing things. Maintaining the tension and making a useful move like 24.h3! was better as 24...Rxb2 can be met by 25.Ra1! Qd5 26.Rxa7+= Forcing ...Bd8, since otherwise the pawn on c7 gets lost. However, this means Black would have a passive position and thus White should have a pleasant edge. Rushing things. Maintaining the tension and making a useful move like 24.h3! was better as 24...Rxb2 can be met by 25. Ra1! Qd5 26.Rxa7+= Forcing ...Bd8, since otherwise the pawn on c7 gets lost. However, this means Black would have a passive position and thus White should have a pleasant edge. Rushing things. Maintaining the tension and making a useful move like 24.h3! was better as 24...Rxb2 can be met by 25. Ra1! Qd5 26.Rxa7+= Forcing ...Bd8, since otherwise the pawn on c7 gets lost. However, this means Black would have a passive position and thus White should have a pleasant edge. Rushing things. Maintaining the tension and making a useful move like 24.h3! was better as 24...Rxb2 can be met by 25. Ra1! Qd5 26.Rxa7+= Forcing ...Bd8, since otherwise the pawn on c7 gets lost. However, this means Black would have a passive position and thus White should have a pleasant edge. **24...Qxb2 25.Rxa7 Bd8** This is too passive. 25...

Rb7! This was better, trading off an active white piece: 26.Rxb7 26.Ra6 Rb6! Continuing the exchanging attempt. 27.Ra5 Rb3= The pin allows Black to keep the balance. Qxb7 27.Qg4 with a very slight advantage for White due to the weak c-pawn, but it should be holdable for Black. This is too passive. 25...Rb7! This was better, trading off an active white piece: 26.Rxb7 26.Ra6 Rb6! Continuing the exchanging attempt. 27.Ra5 Rb3= The pin allows Black to keep the balance. Qxb7 27.Qg4 with a very slight advantage for White due to the weak c-pawn, but it should be holdable for Black. This is too passive. 25...Rb7! This was better, trading off an active white piece: 26.Rxb7 26.Ra6 Rb6! Continuing the exchanging attempt. 27.Ra5 Rb3= The pin allows Black to keep the balance. Qxb7 27.Qg4 with a very slight advantage for White due to the weak c-pawn, but it should be holdable for Black. This is too passive. 25...Rb7! This was better, trading off an active white piece: 26.Rxb7 26.Ra6 Rb6! Continuing the exchanging attempt. 27.Ra5 Rb3= The pin allows Black to keep the balance. Qxb7 27.Qg4 with a very slight advantage for White due to the weak c-pawn, but it should be holdable for Black. **26.Qf3** Activating the last piece. **26...Rb5 27.Qc6** White is more active. **27...Rd5 28.h3 Kg8 29.Rb7 Qa3 30.Rc5** 0.19/25 Again, this is too rushed. The absence of these rooks may let Black get counterplay in the future with a timely Bh4. 30.Kh2! A move like this one, slowly improving the position, was to be preferred. The play could continue: 30...Qa2 31.Rc2 Qa1 Thanks to Kh2, this is not with check now. 32.Rb8! with the plan of bringing the second rook to the eighth rank, which is clearly better for White. 32...Qa3 33.g3 h6 34.Rcb2 Kh8 35.R2b4± After some preparatory moves, the rook is ready to go to a8 via a4. Again, this is too rushed. The absence of these rooks may let Black get counterplay in the future with a timely Bh4. 30.Kh2! A move like this one, slowly improving the position, was to be preferred. The play could continue: 30...Qa2 31.Rc2 Qa1 Thanks to Kh2, this is not with check now. 32.Rb8! with the plan of bringing the second rook to the eighth rank, which is clearly better for White. 32...Qa3 33.g3 h6 34.Rcb2 Kh8 35.R2b4± After some preparatory moves, the rook is ready to go to a8 via a4. Again, this is too rushed. The absence of these rooks may let Black get counterplay in the future with a timely Bh4. 30.Kh2! A move like this one, slowly improving the position, was to be preferred. The play could continue: 30...Qa2 31.Rc2 Qa1 Thanks to Kh2, this is not with check now. 32.Rb8! with the plan of bringing the second rook to the eighth rank, which is clearly better for White. 32...Qa3 33.g3 h6 34.Rcb2 Kh8 35.R2b4± After some preparatory moves, the rook is ready to go to a8 via a4. Again, this is too rushed. The absence of these rooks may let Black get counterplay in the future with a timely Bh4. 30.Kh2! A move like this one, slowly improving the position, was to be preferred. The play could continue: 30... Qa2 31.Rc2 Qa1 Thanks to Kh2, this is not with check now. 32.Rb8! with the plan of bringing the second rook to the eighth rank, which is clearly better for White. 32...Qa3 33.g3 h6 34.Rcb2 Kh8 35.R2b4± After some preparatory moves, the rook is ready to go to a8 via a4.

[ 30.g3± 0.96/21 ]

[ 30.Rb8± 0.79/19 ]

**30...Rxc5** **31.Qxc5** 31.dxc5? Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxe5+ drops a pawn. 31.dxc5? Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxe5+ drops a pawn. 31.dxc5? Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxe5+ drops a pawn. 31.dxc5? Qa1+ 32.Kh2 Qxe5+ drops a pawn. **31...Qa8** Black should keep the queens. 31...Qxc5? 32.dxc5 Now c6 is a threat, locking up c7 and thus leaving the bishop and rook stuck on the eighth rank. 32...c6?! This doesn't solve Black's problems though: 33.Ra7+- Followed by Ra6 and the pawn on c6 is lost. 31...Qd3+= was also possible. Black should keep the queens. 31...Qxc5? 32.dxc5 Now c6 is a threat, locking up c7 and thus leaving the bishop and rook stuck on the eighth rank. 32...c6?! This doesn't solve Black's problems though: 33.Ra7+- Followed by Ra6 and the pawn on c6 is lost. 31...Qd3+= was also possible. Black should keep the queens. 31...Qxc5? 32.dxc5 Now c6 is a threat, locking up c7 and thus leaving the bishop and rook stuck on the eighth rank. 32...c6?! This doesn't solve Black's problems though: 33.Ra7+- Followed by Ra6 and the pawn on c6 is lost. 31...Qd3+= was also possible. Black should keep the queens. 31...Qxc5? 32.dxc5 Now c6 is a threat, locking up c7 and thus leaving the bishop and rook stuck on the eighth rank. 32...c6?! This doesn't solve Black's problems though: 33.Ra7+- Followed by Ra6 and the pawn on c6 is lost. 31...Qd3+= was also possible.

[ 31...Qd3 looks sharper. 32.Kh2 h6 33.Rb8 Qe4 ]

**32.Qc6** &Bianco is much more active. **32...h6** **33.Kh2** In this position, Black is unable to do much, so I make a useful move. In this position, Black is unable to do much, so I make a useful move. In this position, Black is unable to do much, so I make a useful move. In this position, Black is unable to do much, so I make a useful move. **33...Kh8** **34.Qb5** Preparing Rb8. **34...Bg5** An interesting sacrifice by my opponent. He decides to give up the c7 pawn for activity. 34...Qa1!? This is another move preparing to meet 35.Rb8 with 35...Be7+= An interesting sacrifice by my opponent. He decides to give up the c7 pawn for activity. 34...Qa1!? This is another move preparing to meet 35.Rb8 with 35...Be7+= An interesting sacrifice by my opponent. He decides to give up the c7 pawn for activity. 34...Qa1!? This is another move preparing to meet 35.Rb8 with 35...Be7+= An interesting sacrifice by my opponent. He decides to give up the c7 pawn for activity. 34...Qa1!? This is another move preparing to meet 35.Rb8 with 35... Be7+= **35.Rxc7** **Qe4** **36.Bxg5** 0.33/25 During the game, I had felt that the queen ending has more chances to win compared to the rook endgame. 36.Qc6 This is also possible but after 36...Qxc6 37.Rxc6 Ra8+= it is not easy to make progress, as when White eventually plays d5, then it will lead to a 4 vs 3 structure which I think can be drawn with precise play. During the game, I had felt that the queen ending has more chances to win compared to the rook endgame. 36.Qc6 This is also possible but after 36...Qxc6 37.Rxc6 Ra8+= it is not easy to make progress, as when White eventually plays d5, then it will lead to a 4 vs 3 structure which I think can be drawn with precise play. During the game, I had felt that the queen ending has more chances to win compared to the rook endgame. 36.Qc6 This is also possible but after 36...Qxc6 37. Rxc6 Ra8+= it is not easy to make progress, as when White eventually plays d5, then it will lead to a 4 vs 3 structure which I think can be drawn with precise play.

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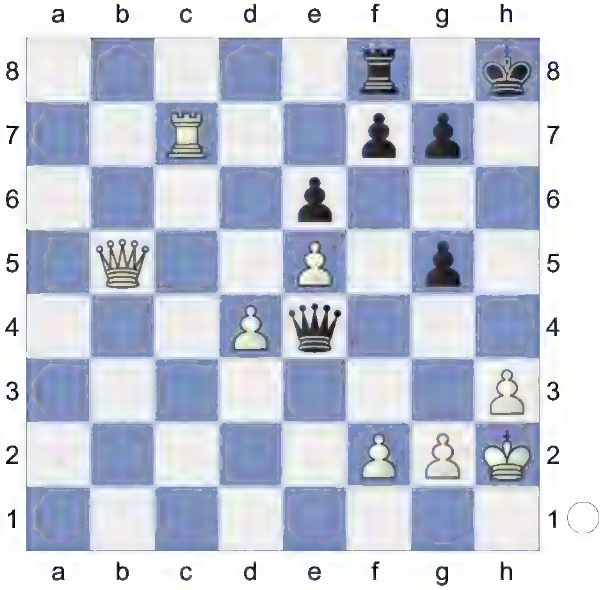
[ 36.Qc6± 0.88/21 Bf4+ 0.82/25 ( *36...Qxc6=* 0.28/21 keeps the balance. *37.Rxc6 Ra8* ) 37.Kg1!± Qb1+ 38.Qc1 Qxc1+ 39.Rxc1 Bxe3 40.fxe3 ]

**36...hxg5**



**37.Rxf7!** A small tactic. Decoy **37...Rxf7 38.Qe8+ Kh7 39.Qxf7** Hoping for Qf7-h5+. **39...Qxd4** Endgame. Endgame KQ-KQ **40.Qh5+**

[Much weaker is 40.Qxe6 And now Qf5+ would win. Qf4+ 41.Kg1 Qc1+ 42.Kh2 Qf4+= 43.g3 ( *43.Kg1 Qc1+ 44.Kh2 Qf4+=; 43.Kg1!? Qc1+□ 44.Kh2 Qf4+=* ) 43...Qxf2+ 44.Kh1 Qf1+ 45.Kh2 Qf2+ 46.Kh1 Qf1+ 47.Kh2 Qf2+= ]

**40...Kg8 41.Qe8+** Repeating once to gain some extra time on the clock. 41. Qe2!? This is possible but 41...Kh7 bugged me as the black queen is very active, and trading leads to a draw after 42.Qe3!? Qxe3 43.fxe3 Kg6 44.e4 Kh6!! The only move. White's plan is based on bringing his king to the queenside when using a spare tempo to induce zugzwang. With this clever move, Black keeps the option of ...Kh5 and forces White's g-pawn forward, and then this extra tempo won't be available anymore later. White's plan is best demonstrated in the following variation: 44...Kf7 45.Kg3 Kg6 45...Ke7 46. Kg4+- and g5 is lost. 46.Kf2! 46.Kf3 This is the most natural move but it draws because here after 46...Kh5! 47. g3 Black has the resource 47...g4+! 48.hxg4+ Kg5= and White is the one who is forced to move and lose the g4-pawn. Kf7 46...Kh5 47.g3! keeps the king out. 47.Ke3 Ke7 48.Kd4 Kd7 49. Kc5 Kc7 Compared to the main drawing variation with 44... Kh6!!, White has an extra tempo to waste here, and that makes all the difference! 50.g3! 50.g4?? g6= and the white king is forced to move. g4 51.h4 51.hxg4? g5= once again leaves White to move at an unfavorable moment. g6 52.Kd4 Kc6 53.Ke3+- The g4-pawn will be lost soon, with a winning position. 45.g3 45.Kg3 Kh5! Forces White to go back as 46.Kf3 Kh4-+ followed by ...g4 even loses for White! 45.Kg1 is met by 45...g4! 45...Kg6 46.Kf2! Kf7 47.Ke3+- transposes to the winning 44... Kf7 variation, as the pawn is still on g2. 46. h4 g3! Preventing White from activating the king quickly, giving Black just enough time to hold. 47.Kf1 Kh5 48.Ke2 Kxh4 49.Kd3 Kg4 With a draw. Kh7!! The position with the kings on f3 and f7 is a zugzwang as we have seen before. Therefore, Black wastes a tempo. 45...Kg6 46.Kg2 Kf7 47.Kf3↑ Kg6 47...Ke7 48.Kg4+- 48.Ke3+- and the white king gets to c5 too fast. 46.Kg2 Kg8! 46...Kg6? 47.Kf2+- 47.Kf3 47. Kf2 Kf8! Avoiding the zugzwang. Kf7 Now that White's king was already on f3, this square is safe for Black. 48.Ke3 48.Kg4 Kg6= doesn't lead to any progress. Ke7 49.Kd4 Kd7 50.Kc5 Kc7 White would sure love to play g2-g3 here! 51.g4 51.h4 gxh4 52.gxh4 g6 is also a draw. g6= White's king has no way through, so the position is a draw. Repeating once to gain some extra time on the clock. 41.Qe2!? This is possible but 41...Kh7 bugged me as the black queen is very active, and trading leads to a draw after 42.Qe3!? Qxe3 43.fxe3 Kg6 44.e4 Kh6!! The only move. White's plan is based on bringing his king to the queenside when using a spare tempo to induce zugzwang. With this clever move, Black keeps the option of ...Kh5 and forces White's g-pawn forward, and then this extra tempo won't be available anymore later. White's plan is best demonstrated in the following variation: 44...Kf7 45.Kg3 Kg6 45...Ke7 46.Kg4+- and g5 is lost. 46.Kf2! 46.Kf3 This is the most natural move but it draws because here after 46...Kh5! 47.g3 Black has the resource 47...g4+! 48.hxg4+ Kg5= and White is the one who is forced to move and lose the g4-pawn. Kf7 46...Kh5 47.g3! keeps the king out. 47.Ke3 Ke7 48.Kd4 Kd7 49.Kc5 Kc7 Compared to the main drawing variation with 44... Kh6!!, White has an extra tempo to waste here, and that makes all the difference! 50.g3! 50.g4?? g6= and the white king is forced to move. g4 51.h4 51.hxg4? g5= once again leaves White to move at an unfavorable moment. g6 52.Kd4 Kc6 53.Ke3+- The g4-pawn will be lost soon, with a winning position. 45.g3 45.Kg3 Kh5! Forces White to go back as 46.Kf3 Kh4-+ followed by ...g4

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[Better is 43.Qe2!± 0.72/25 ]

**43...Qxf2 44.h4** White has a clear plan of either h4-h5-h6 or g4-g5-g6, putting the black king in a cage. White has a clear plan of either h4-h5-h6 or g4-g5-g6, putting the black king in a cage. White has a clear plan of either h4-h5-h6 or g4-g5-g6, putting the black king in a cage. White has a clear plan of either h4-h5-h6 or g4-g5-g6, putting the black king in a cage. **44...Qf7**

[ 44...Qf8± 0.69/18 44...Kh7 0.05 ]

**45.Kg3 Kh7** 45...Qf1!? This would also hold, but was more difficult to spot. 46. h5 Qd3+! 46...Qh1? loses to 47.h6! Forcing a pawn endgame, that turns out to be winning for White. 47...Qxh6 48. Qxh6 gxh6 49.Kg4 Kh8 50.Kh5 Black has two options, but neither can save him because we have a tempo to spare: 50...Kh7 50...Kg7 51.g3! 51.g4? Kh7 52.g5 hxg5 53.Kxg5 Kg7= and Black has the opposition. Kh7 52.g4 Kg7 53. g5 hxg5 54.Kxg5+- With Black to move, White wins here. 51.g4! 51.g3? Now we need to push g4 instead of g3! 51... Kg7 52.g4 Kh7 53.g5 hxg5 54.Kxg5 Kg7= Kg7 52.g5 hxg5 53.Kxg5+- with the same winning position. 47.Kh2 Kh7 47...Qh7!? This also holds but it looks very strange and unnecessary. 48.h6 g6! 48...gxh6? 49.Qe7+ Kh8 50.Qxe6 This ending is winning as the black king is more exposed to checks compared to the variation with 48... g6. 50...Qe4 51. Qf6+ Kh7 52.e6 Qg6 53.Qe5! 53. Qxg6+? This pawn ending does not win! 53...Kxg6 54.Kg3 Kf6 55.Kh4 Kxe6 56.Kh5 Kf5 57.Kxh6 Kg4 This would be a sad way to mess up half a point. Kg8 54.e7 Qe8 55.Qf6+- Black is powerless. 49.Qe7+ Kxh6 50.Qxe6 Now White does not immediately have a check. 50...Qe4 51.Qf6 Kh7 52.e6 g5= A strong move, threatening to give a perpetual with ... Qh4+ and ...Qe1+. 53.Qxg5 Qxe6= 45...Qf1!? This would also hold, but was more difficult to spot. 46.h5 Qd3+! 46...Qh1? loses to 47. h6! Forcing a pawn endgame, that turns out to be winning for White. 47...Qxh6 48.Qxh6 gxh6 49.Kg4 Kh8 50.Kh5 Black has two options, but neither can save him because we have a tempo to spare: 50...Kh7 50...Kg7 51.g3! 51. g4? Kh7 52.g5 hxg5 53.Kxg5 Kg7= and Black has the opposition. Kh7 52.

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**46.h5 Qe8! 47.Kh4**

[ 47.Kh3!? ]

**47...Qf7 48.g3 Qe8 49.g4** Improving slowly. **49...Qf7 50.Kg3 Qa7** 50...Qe8 51.Qf4 This is still holdable, but White plans Kh4, g5-g6 and it does look threatening. 50...Qe8 51.Qf4 This is still holdable, but White plans Kh4, g5-g6 and it does look threatening. 50...Qe8 51.Qf4 This is still holdable, but White plans Kh4, g5-g6 and it does look threatening. 50...Qe8 51.Qf4 This is still holdable, but White plans Kh4, g5-g6 and it does look threatening. **51.Qg6+ Kh8 52.Qe4** 52.Qxe6? This fails to 52...Qe3+ 53.Kh4 g5+ 54.hxg6 Qh6+ 55.Kg3 Qe3+= with a perpetual. 52.Qxe6? This fails to 52...Qe3+ 53.Kh4 g5+ 54.hxg6 Qh6+ 55.Kg3 Qe3+= with a perpetual. 52.Qxe6? This fails to 52...Qe3+ 53.Kh4 g5+ 54.hxg6 Qh6+ 55.Kg3 Qe3+= with a perpetual. 52.Qxe6? This fails to 52...Qe3+ 53.Kh4 g5+ 54.hxg6 Qh6+ 55.Kg3 Qe3+= with a perpetual. **52...Qa3+ 53.Kh4 Qf8 54.Kg3 Qa3+ 55.Kh4 Qf8 56.Qe3 Qa8 57.Kg3 Qf8?** 7.16/19 The decisive mistake 57...Qh1 This one, out of many moves, would have held the balance. The decisive mistake 57...Qh1 This one, out of many moves, would have held the balance. The decisive mistake 57...Qh1 This one, out of many moves, would have held the balance. The decisive mistake 57...Qh1 This one, out of many moves, would have held the balance.

[ 57...Qh1= 0.01/26 ]

[ 57...Qh1= 0.00/29 ]

**58.g5!+-** Threatens to win with g5-g6. **58...Kg8?** 10.15/31

[ 58...Qf5± 1.05/30 ]

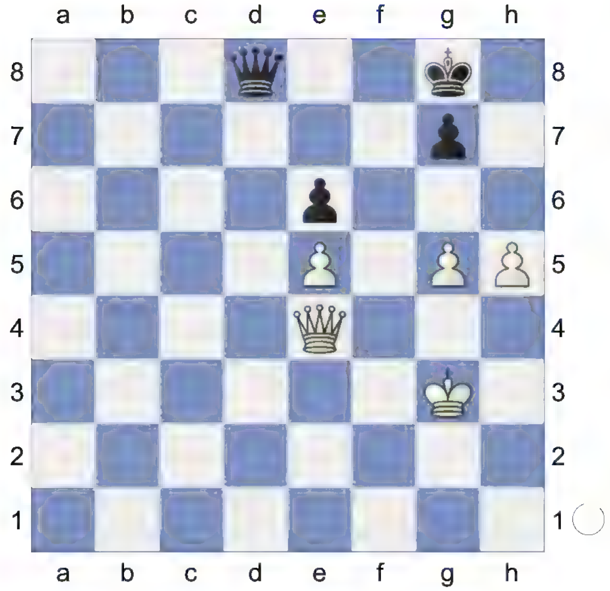
**59.Qe4?** 0.00/32 59.g6 Playing this directly, with the idea of offering a queen exchange on the f-file, was easily winning: 59...Qf5 60.Qf4! Qd3+ 61.Kg4 Qd1+ 62.Qf3! Qa4+ 63.Kg5 Black has run out of checks. 63...Qe8 64.h6 Qe7+ 65.Kh5 gxh6 66.Qf7++- and this liquidation gives White a winning pawn endgame. 59.g6 Playing this directly, with the idea of offering a queen exchange on the f-file, was easily winning: 59...Qf5 60.Qf4! Qd3+ 61.Kg4 Qd1+ 62.Qf3! Qa4+ 63.Kg5 Black has run out of checks. 63...Qe8 64.h6 Qe7+ 65.Kh5 gxh6 66.Qf7++- and this liquidation gives White a winning pawn endgame. 59.g6 Playing this directly, with the idea of offering a queen exchange on the f-file, was easily winning: 59...Qf5 60.Qf4! Qd3+ 61.Kg4 Qd1+ 62.Qf3! Qa4+ 63.Kg5 Black has run out of checks. 63...Qe8 64.h6 Qe7+ 65.Kh5 gxh6 66.Qf7++- and this liquidation gives White a winning pawn endgame. 59. g6 Playing this directly, with the idea of offering a queen exchange on the f-file, was easily winning: 59...Qf5 60.Qf4! Qd3+ 61.Kg4 Qd1+ 62.Qf3! Qa4+ 63. Kg5 Black has run out of checks. 63...Qe8 64.h6 Qe7+ 65.Kh5 gxh6 66.Qf7++- and this liquidation gives White a winning pawn endgame.

[ 59.g6!+- 10.15/31 And now Qe3-f3 would win. Qb8 Against Qb3 60.Qe4 ]

[ 59.g6!+- 14.53/24 Qd8 60.Qf3 ]

**59...Qd8?** 6.76/25 After this final mistake, White is easily winning. 59...Qa3+! 60. Qf3 Qa1= or 59...Qf1! would have been a draw again: 60.Qe3 60.Qa8+ Kh7 61.g6+ Kh6 62.Qh8+ Sadly, this is not mate. 62...Kg5= Qf5= After this final mistake, White is easily winning. 59...Qa3+! 60.Qf3 Qa1= or 59...Qf1! would have been a draw again: 60.Qe3 60.Qa8+ Kh7 61.g6+ Kh6 62.Qh8+ Sadly, this is not mate. 62...Kg5= Qf5= After this final mistake, White is easily winning. 59...Qa3+! 60.Qf3 Qa1= or 59...Qf1! would have been a draw again: 60.Qe3 60.Qa8+ Kh7 61.g6+ Kh6 62. Qh8+ Sadly, this is not mate. 62...Kg5= Qf5=

[ 59...Qa3+= 0.01/25 60.Qf3 Qa1 ]
[ 59...Qa3+= 0.00/32 60.Kg4 Qa1 ]



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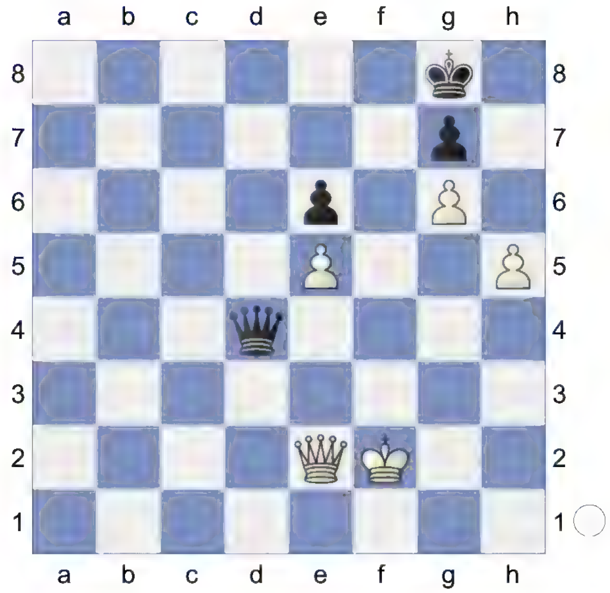
**62.Qe2?** 0.92/29

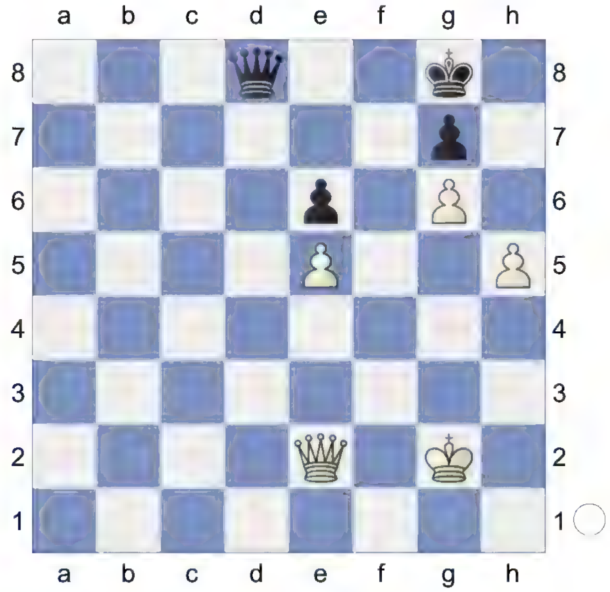
[ 62.Kf3+- 5.57/30 and the rest is easy. Intending Qe4-a8+ and mate. Intending Qa8+ and mate. Qd1+ 63.Kg2 ]

**62...Qd4+?** 10.15/33

[ 62...Qc3± 0.92/29 63.Qf3 Qb2+ 64.Kf1 Qa8+ would kill now. Qb5+ 65.Kg1 Threatening mate with Qa8+. Qb6+ 66.Kg2 7.02/25 *( ⌓66.Kh2* 14.70/34 *Qd8 67.Kh3 )* 66...Qd8 ]



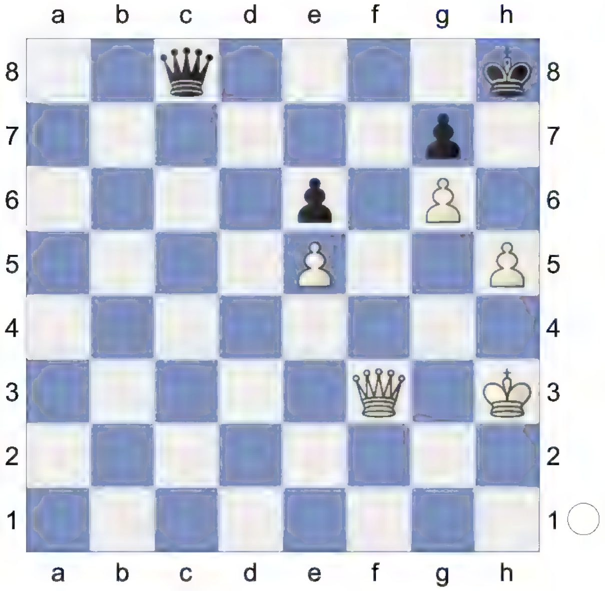
**63.Kg2! Qd8**



**64.Qf3! Kh8 65.Kh3** 9.13/29 Black is stuck on the last rank, so I improve the position of my king first. Black is stuck on the last rank, so I improve the position of my king first. Black is stuck on the last rank, so I improve the position of my king first. Black is stuck on the last rank, so I improve the position of my king first. White threatens h5-h6! and mate.

[ ⌓65.Kg3 19.95/33 Kg8 66.Kg4 *( 66.Qf7+ Kh8+- )*]

**65...Qc8**



**66.h6!** A nice finish. A nice finish. A nice finish. A nice finish. White mates.

**66...Qb8**

[ 66...Qd8 67.hxg7+ ]

**67.Kg4** White mates. **67...Qb4+ 68.Kh5 Qe7 69.Qa8+** Weighted Error Value: White=0.23 (precise) /Black=0.14 (very precise).

Weighted Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.22 (precise)

**1-0**

**D24**

☐ **Model Games**

■ **Goganov,Aleksey**

*[Kitty Kat]*

D24: Queen's Gambit Accepted: 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 Nc3 RR: 'Inf 78/(32)' **1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5**

[ 3...c5 4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Ndb5 d5 7.Bf4 e5 8.cxd5 exf4 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.Rd1+ Bd7 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Rxd6 Rb8 14.b3 Rb4 15.g3 Ke7 16.Rd2 h5 17.Bg2 h4 18.0-0 (28) Georgiev, K (2677)-Topalov,V (2702) 78/(32) Sarajevo 2000 ]

**4.Nf3 dxc4N**

[ 4...c5 5.Bf4 cxd4 6.Nxd4 Nbd7 7.Qa4 Bc5 8.Nb3 0-0 9.Nxc5 Nxc5 10.Qa3 b6 11.Rd1 Bb7 12.e3 Qe7 13.Bg3 Rfd8 The Semi Tarrasch-5.♗f4 5569 2021 ]

**5.e4 b5N** As this is such an important part of our course, I am adding another model game from star player Nepomniachtchi here! This game was played at the end of 2020, in the Russian Championship - an event that he ultimately won, partly because of his win in this game! As this is such an important part of our course, I am adding another model game from star player Nepomniachtchi here! This game was played at the end of 2020, in the Russian Championship - an event that he ultimately won, partly because of his win in this game! As this is such an important part of our course, I am adding another model game from star player Nepomniachtchi here! This game was played at the end of 2020, in the Russian Championship - an event that he ultimately won, partly because of his win in this game! As this is such an important part of our course, I am adding another model game from star player Nepomniachtchi here! This game was played at the end of 2020, in the Russian Championship - an event that he ultimately won, partly because of his win in this game! **6.e5! Nd5 7.Nxb5 Nb6 8.Be2** White is slightly better. White is slightly better. **8...Nc6 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qd2 0-0** We have another game in the 10. Qd2 variation, but this time Black does follow my recommendation of short castling, which makes it different from the game against Carlsen. We have another game in the 10. Qd2 variation, but this time Black does follow my recommendation of short castling, which makes it different from the game against Carlsen. We have another game in the 10. Qd2 variation, but this time Black does follow my recommendation of short castling, which makes it different from the game against Carlsen. We have another game in the 10. Qd2 variation, but this time Black does follow my recommendation of short castling, which makes it different from the game against Carlsen. **11.Qf4 Rb8** As you might remember from the theory section, the move ...Nd5 is now threatened, winning the knight on b5. Therefore, White usually plays the queen to g3 or moves away the knight now. As you might remember from the theory section, the move ...Nd5 is now threatened, winning the knight on b5. Therefore, White usually plays the queen to g3 or moves away the knight now. As you might remember from the theory section, the move ...Nd5 is now threatened, winning the knight on b5. Therefore, White usually plays the queen to g3 or moves away the knight now. As you might remember from the theory section, the move ...Nd5 is now threatened, winning the knight on b5. Therefore, White usually plays the queen to g3 or moves away the knight now. Strongly threatening ...Nd5. **12.Qg3** White has a threat in return: Bh6! White has a threat in return: Bh6! White has a threat in return: Bh6! White has a threat in return: Bh6! White wants to play Bc1-h6. Black must now prevent Bh6. **12...Kh8** Now the pawn on g7 is unpinned, meaning our king is safe. **13.Rd1 Nb4** A typical move to improve the knight. This is especially well-timed after Rd1 from White, since White spent a tempo on protecting the pawn on d4. This means that the knight on c6 is no longer that useful, so it is the perfect time to reroute our piece to a better square - d5. A typical move to improve the knight. This is especially well-timed after Rd1 from White, since White spent a tempo on protecting the pawn on d4. This means that the knight on c6 is no longer that useful, so it is the perfect time to reroute our piece to a better square - d5. A typical move to improve the knight. This is especially well-timed after Rd1 from White, since White spent a tempo on protecting the pawn on d4. This means that the knight on c6 is no longer that useful, so it is the perfect time to reroute our piece to a better square - d5. **14.Nc3**

[ 14.Nxa7? -2.05/22 14.Nc3 0.39 Bd7! 15.Ng5 -2.32/20 ( *△15.b3* -1.77/20 *Ra8 16.bxc4 Rxa7 17.a3* ) 15...Ra8∓ ]

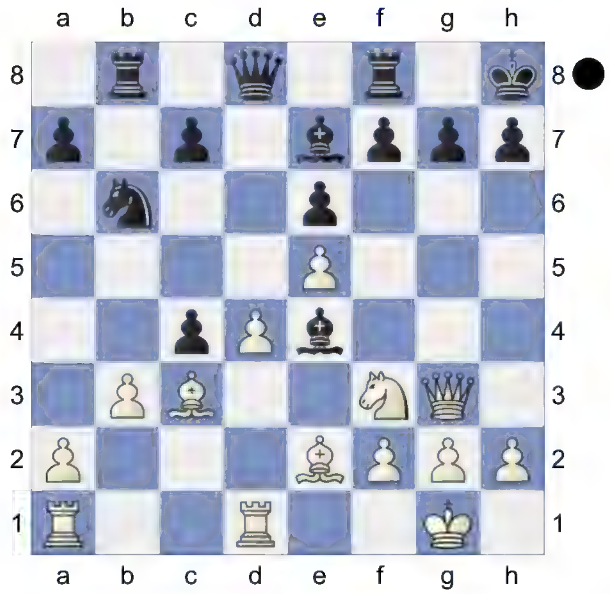
[ 14.Nxa7? Bd7 15.d5 exd5-+ ( *15...N6xd5 16.Bxc4 Rb7 17.Rb1* )]

**14...Bb7 15.Rb1** As I mentioned in the theory section, there is no clear strongest move for White here, so this is only one out of several options. White does not want to allow ...Nc2 with tempo and therefore moves away the rook. As I mentioned in the theory section, there is no clear strongest move for White here, so this is only one out of several options. White does not want to allow ...Nc2 with tempo and therefore moves away the rook. As I mentioned in the theory section, there is no clear strongest move for White here, so this is only one out of several options. White does not want to allow ...Nc2 with tempo and therefore moves away the rook. As I mentioned in the theory section, there is no clear strongest move for White here, so this is only one out of several options. White does not want to allow ...Nc2 with tempo and therefore moves away the rook. **15...N4d5 16.Bd2** White is defending the knight on c3, so that after ...Nxc3 the bishop can recapture. White is defending the knight on c3, so that after ...Nxc3 the bishop can recapture. White is defending the knight on c3, so that after ...Nxc3 the bishop can recapture. White is defending the knight on c3, so that after ...Nxc3 the bishop can recapture. **16...Nxc3 17.Bxc3 Bd5** Black has the pawn on c4 firmly defended, and has reached equality. From here on, White starts to make some small mistakes, and this game shows you how to benefit and take the initiative! Black has the pawn on c4 firmly defended, and has reached equality. From here on, White starts to make some small mistakes, and this game shows you how to benefit and take the initiative! Black has the pawn on c4 firmly defended, and has reached equality. From here on, White starts to make some small mistakes, and this game shows you how to benefit and take the initiative! Black has the pawn on c4 firmly defended, and has reached equality. From here on, White starts to make some small mistakes, and this game shows you how to benefit and take the initiative! **18.b3** -0.36/23 White prevents ...Na4 and attempts to use the rook on b1. However, Black takes over now. White prevents ...Na4 and attempts to use the rook on b1. However, Black takes over now. White prevents ...Na4 and attempts to use the rook on b1. However, Black takes over now. White prevents ...Na4 and attempts to use the rook on b1. However, Black takes over now.

[ 18.Nd2= 0.00/20 ]

**18...Be4∓ 19.Ra1** -1.02/23 19.Rbc1The rook is vulnerable here, as we can play ...Ba3 at any time.19...cxb320. axb3Nd5Attacking the b3-pawn. White has a hard time defending the queenside now.21.Bc4Ba3Now we see the downside of having the rook on c1 - it can't protect the bishop on c3 anymore. There is only one solution:22. Bxd5Bxd523.Ra1Bxb3∓Black has won a pawn, and has a strong bishop pair that can be put to good use as well. 19. Rbc1The rook is vulnerable here, as we can play ...Ba3 at any time.19...cxb320. axb3Nd5Attacking the b3-pawn. White has a hard time defending the queenside now.21.Bc4Ba3Now we see the downside of having the rook on c1 - it can't protect the bishop on c3 anymore. There is only one solution:22. Bxd5Bxd523.Ra1Bxb3∓Black has won a pawn, and has a strong bishop pair that can be put to good use as well. 19. Rbc1The rook is vulnerable here, as we can play ...Ba3 at any time.19...cxb320. axb3Nd5Attacking the b3-pawn. White has a hard time defending the queenside now.21.Bc4Ba3Now we see the downside of having the rook on c1 - it can't protect the bishop on c3 anymore. There is only one solution:22. Bxd5Bxd523.Ra1Bxb3∓Black has won a pawn, and has a strong bishop pair that can be put to good use as well.

[ 19.bxc4? -2.43/22 19.Rbc1 -0.36 Bxb1 20.Rxb1 Na4 21.Rxb8 Qxb8∓ ]
[ 19.Rbc1!= 0.01/19 ]
[ 19.Rbc1!∓ -0.51/23 ]



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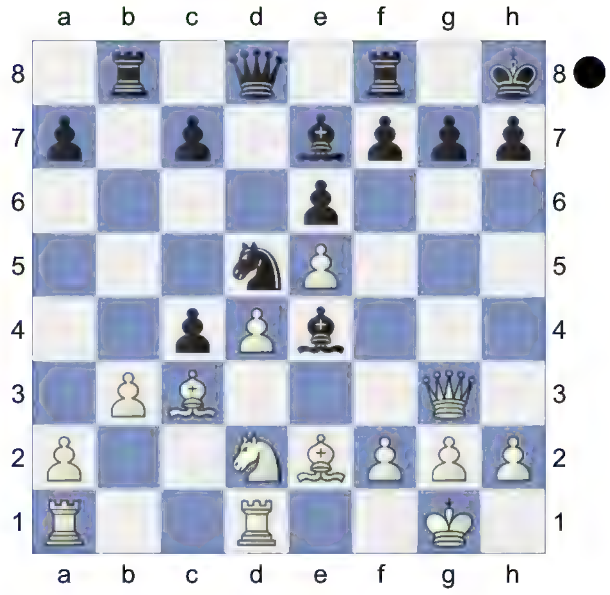
[Don't blunder 20.Nd2? -2.81/22
20.Ba5 -1.17



Bh4! 21.Qg4 *( 21.Qh3? Bxg2 22.Qg4 Nxc3-+ )* 21...Nxc3-+ ]

[ ⌂20.Ba5 -0.78/22 cxb3 21.axb3 ]

[ 20.Ba5∓ -1.10/20 c3 *( 20...cxb3*

*21.axb3 Rxb3 22.h3= )* 21.Rdc1 ]

**20...c3-+**

[Stronger than 20...cxb3 -0.74/18 20...c3 -1.75 21.axb3 Rxb3 22.Rxa7= -1.15/20 (Better is *22.h3* -0.77/20 )]

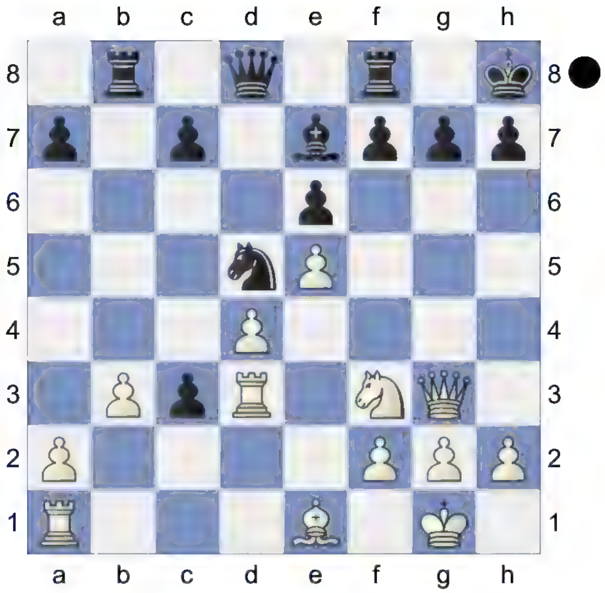
[ 20...cxb3 21.axb3 Rxb3 22.Bc4 Bxf3 23.Bxb3 Bxd1 24.Rxd1∓ ]

**21.Bd3** -1.77/22 Trying to address the strong bishop and preventing the pawn from advancing much further.

[ 21.Rdc1∓ -1.36/23 ]

**21...Bxd3** 21...c2This might look interesting, but...22.Bxe4!cxd1=Q23.Rxd1=White's bishop on e4 is very strong now, and White has counterplay as our kingside can be attacked. So Black still needed to play accurately! 21...c2This might look interesting, but... 22.Bxe4!cxd1=Q23.Rxd1=White's bishop on e4 is very strong now, and White has counterplay as our kingside can be attacked. So Black still needed to play accurately! 21...c2This might look interesting, but...22.Bxe4!cxd1=Q23.Rxd1=White's bishop on e4 is very strong now, and White has counterplay as our kingside can be attacked. So Black still needed to play accurately! 21...c2This might look interesting, but... 22.Bxe4!cxd1=Q23.Rxd1=White's bishop on e4 is very strong now, and White has counterplay as our kingside can be attacked. So Black still needed to play accurately! **22.Rxd3**

(Diagram)



**Ba3!** Now ...c2 and ...Bb2 are coming, and White is unable to stop this advance. Now ...c2 and ...Bb2 are coming, and White is unable to stop this advance. Now ...c2 and ...Bb2 are coming, and White is unable to stop this advance. Now ...c2 and ...Bb2 are coming, and White is unable to stop this advance. Threatens to win with ...Ba3-b2.

[ 22...Bb4 23.a3 Be7 24.b4∓ ]

**23.Bxc3** Again the only way is to give up the exchange - but now White does not have the light-squared bishop anymore, and thus loses the counterplay. Again the only way is to give up the exchange - but now White does not have the light-squared bishop anymore, and thus loses the counterplay. Again the only way is to give up the exchange - but now White does not have the light-squared bishop anymore, and thus loses the counterplay. Again the only way is to give up the exchange - but now White does not have the light-squared bishop anymore, and thus loses the counterplay. **23...Nxc3** Remove Defender **24.Rxc3 Bb2!↑** Black is in control. **25.Rac1 c5** An instructive move, making sure that the c-file will be opened. Since we have an extra exchange, we need open files for our rooks, so this is quite clever actually!25...Bxc126.Rxc1Of course Black has a large advantage, but it is a little harder to make progress here compared to the game. An instructive move, making sure that the c-file will be opened. Since we have an extra exchange, we need open files for our rooks, so this is quite clever actually!25... Bxc126.Rxc1Of course Black has a large advantage, but it is a little harder to make progress here compared to the game. An instructive move, making sure that the c-file will be opened. Since we have an extra exchange, we need open files for our rooks, so this is quite clever actually!25...Bxc126.Rxc1Of course Black has a large advantage, but it is a little harder to make progress here compared to the game. An instructive move, making sure that the c-file will be opened. Since we have an extra exchange, we need open files for our rooks, so this is quite clever actually!25...Bxc126.Rxc1Of course Black has a large advantage, but it is a little harder to make progress here compared to the game. **26.Rxc5** 26.dxc5?The point is that White is unable to take with the pawn now, which is why ...c5 had to be inserted here and not at a different move.26...Bxc327. Rxc3Qd1+With mate. 26.dxc5?The point is that White is unable to take with the pawn now, which is why ...c5 had to be inserted here and not at a different move.26...Bxc327.Rxc3Qd1+With mate. 26.dxc5?The point is that White is unable to take with the pawn now, which is why ...c5 had to be inserted here and not at a different move.26...Bxc327. Rxc3Qd1+With mate. 26. dxc5?The point is that White is unable to take with the pawn now, which is why ...c5 had to be inserted here and not at a different move.26...Bxc327. Rxc3Qd1+With mate. **26...Bxc1 27.Rxc1** Now we have the same position as after 25... Bxc1, but without our c-pawn. This might seem like a bad thing, but it is positive for us as we can now play one of our rooks to c8 and take over this important file! Now we have the same position as after 25... Bxc1, but without our c-pawn. This might seem like a bad thing, but it is positive for us as we can now play one of our rooks to c8 and take over this important file! Now we have the same position as after 25... Bxc1, but without our c-pawn. This might seem like a bad thing, but it is positive for us as we can now play one of our rooks to c8 and take over this important file! Now we have the same position as after 25... Bxc1, but without our c-pawn. This might seem like a bad thing, but it is positive for us as we can now play one of our rooks to c8 and take over this important file! **27...Qa5** -1.41/18 Making room for the rook from f8 to come to c8. All the queenside pawns are vulnerable now, and the white queen on g3 is just too far away to help the defense. Making room for the rook from f8 to come to c8. All the queenside pawns are vulnerable now, and the white queen on g3 is just too far away to help the defense. Making room for the rook from f8 to come to c8. All the queenside pawns are vulnerable now, and the white queen on g3 is just too far away to help the defense. Making room for the rook from f8 to come to c8. All the queenside pawns are vulnerable now, and the white queen on g3 is just too far away to help the defense.

[ 27...Rc8-+ -1.81/20 28.Qf4 Rxc1+ 29.Qxc1 Qd5 ]

**28.h4** -2.22/21

[ 28.h3∓ -1.41/18 ]

**28...Qxa2-+ 29.Qf4** -2.57/22

[ 29.Rc7∓ -1.47/20 was worth a try. ]

**29...Qxb3** We already won back 2 pawns, meaning we are now a full exchange up and have a strong passed pawn on the a-file. White can try a desperate attack on the kingside as a last resort, but Black should win here. We already won back 2 pawns, meaning we are now a full exchange up and have a strong passed pawn on the a-file. White can try a desperate attack on the kingside as a last resort, but Black should win here. We already won back 2 pawns, meaning we are now a full exchange up and have a strong passed pawn on the a-file. White can try a desperate attack on the kingside as a last resort, but Black should win here. We already won back 2 pawns, meaning we are now a full exchange up and have a strong passed pawn on the a-file. White can try a desperate attack on the kingside as a last resort, but Black should win here. ...a7-a5 is the strong threat.

[ 29...Rxb3 30.d5-+ ]

**30.Ng5?** -3.66/19 With the strong threat of Qe4.

[ 30.Rc7 -1.64/19 is a better defense. ]

[ ⌓30.Rc7 -2.19/18 ]

**30...h6** Solving all problems with one simple move. **31.Ne4 Rbc8 32.Re1** Of course White avoids the exchange of more pieces. **32...Qb4 33.Rd1 Rcd8 34.Qe3 a5** Black has deflected White's pieces from attacking the kingside and tied them to the defense of the d4-pawn, leaving them rather passive. So now is the perfect time to finish off the game by advancing the passed pawn! **35.g4** Trying to create something, but Black remains calm and collected. Trying to create something, but Black remains calm and collected. Trying to create something, but Black remains calm and collected. Trying to create something, but Black remains calm and collected. **35...a4 36.g5 h5** Keeping the lines on the kingside closed. Keeping the lines on the kingside closed. Keeping the lines on the kingside closed. Keeping the lines on the kingside closed. White must now prevent ...a4-a3. **37.Nf6** This was a clever try still, as taking the knight would spoil everything! This was a clever try still, as taking the knight would spoil everything! This was a clever try still, as taking the knight would spoil everything! This was a clever try still, as taking the knight would spoil everything! **37...g6** Fully blocking all of White's pawn advances. The knight on f6, strong as it may seem, actually doesn't do that much! White is unable to launch a proper attack now.37...gxf6??38.g6=An instructive motif! Suddenly, White has enough play to keep the balance. Fully blocking all of White's pawn advances. The knight on f6, strong as it may seem, actually doesn't do that much! White is unable to launch a proper attack now. 37...gxf6??38.g6=An instructive motif! Suddenly, White has enough play to keep the balance. Fully blocking all of White's pawn advances. The knight on f6, strong as it may seem, actually doesn't do that much! White is unable to launch a proper attack now.37...gxf6??38. g6=An instructive motif! Suddenly, White has enough play to keep the balance. Fully blocking all of White's pawn advances. The knight on f6, strong as it may seem, actually doesn't do that much! White is unable to launch a proper attack now.37... gxf6??38. g6=An instructive motif! Suddenly, White has enough play to keep the balance. aiming for ...a4-a3.

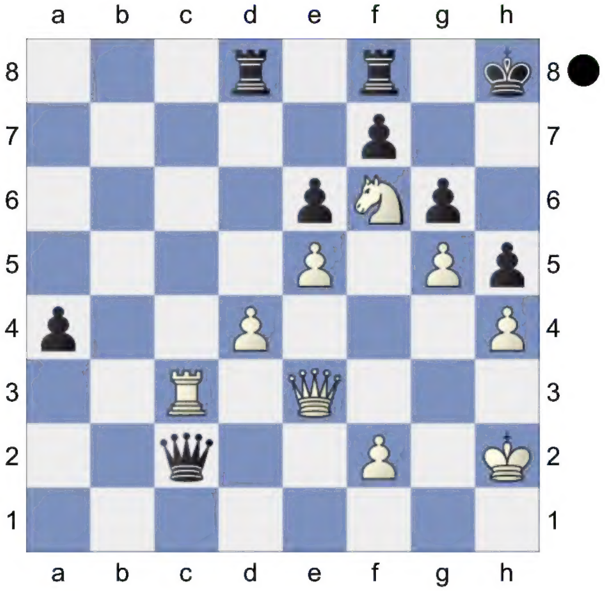
[Inferior is 37...gxf6? -0.25/18 37...g6 -3.39 38.g6! Kg7 Prevents Qh6+. 39.exf6+ Kxf6 40.g7!∓ ]

[ 37...gxf6 38.g6 Kg7 39.exf6+ Kxf6 *( 39...Kxg6 40.Qg5+ Kh7 41.Qg7# )* 40.g7-+ ]

**38.Kh2 Qb3** Not strictly necessary, but good enough.38...a3-+This would have been much simpler. Not strictly necessary, but good enough.38...a3-+This would have been much simpler. Not strictly necessary, but good enough. 38...a3-+This would have been much simpler. Not strictly necessary, but good enough.38... a3-+This would have been much simpler. **39.Rd3 Qc2 40.Rc3?** -3.30/20

[ ⌓40.d5 -1.93/21 ]

[ 40.d5 -1.65/20 was necessary. ]



40.d5!?This could have been one final try to open up lines and create some threats, but it's not enough.40...exd541. e6Qc7+!An important intermediate move. 41...fxe6?42.Qa7!Suddenly the knight on f6 does have a function! Black is no longer winning.42.Kg1fxe6-+Now that the seventh rank is under control, Black is winning. 40.d5!?This could have been one final try to open up lines and create some threats, but it's not enough.40... exd541.e6Qc7+!An important intermediate move.41...fxe6?42. Qa7!Suddenly the knight on f6 does have a function! Black is no longer winning.42.Kg1fxe6-+Now that the seventh rank is under control, Black is winning. 40.d5!?This could have been one final try to open up lines and create some threats, but it's not enough.40... exd541.e6Qc7+!An important intermediate move.41...fxe6?42. Qa7!Suddenly the knight on f6 does have a function! Black is no longer winning.42.Kg1fxe6-+Now that the seventh rank is under control, Black is winning. 40.d5!?This could have been one final try to open up lines and create some threats, but it's not enough.40... exd541.e6Qc7+!An important intermediate move. 41...fxe6?42. Qa7!Suddenly the knight on f6 does have a function! Black is no longer winning.42.Kg1fxe6-+Now that the seventh rank is under control, Black is winning. **40...Qf5!** The kingside is secured well now, so we can activate our rooks finally. The kingside is secured well now, so we can activate our rooks finally. The kingside is secured well now, so we can activate our rooks finally. The kingside is secured well now, so we can activate our rooks finally. Strongly threatening .. . Rd8-c8. **41.Ra3 Ra8 42.d5** -3.74/24 White didn't have a lot of options anyway, but this accelerates the end.

[ ⌓42.Kg2 -2.49/22 ]

**42...exd5 43.Qd4 Qe6** A good move, blocking e6 from White. A good move, blocking e6 from White. A good move, blocking e6 from White. A good move, blocking e6 from White. Prevents Nf6-d7. **44.f4** -6.54/22

[ ⌓44.Kg2 -4.14/23 ]

**44...Rfc8** And now ...Rc8-c4 would win. Black is clearly winning. Black is clearly winning. **45.f5 Qxf5** ( → ...Rc8-c2+). ( -> ...Rc2+) **46.Nxd5 Qe6** White resigned as there are ideas to pin the knight as well as ...Rc2+. Black played excellently here, using both bishops to play on the queenside, and the c4-pawn became the unexpected surprise weapon of Black's position! White resigned as there are ideas to pin the knight as well as ...Rc2+. Black played excellently here, using both bishops to play on the queenside, and the c4-pawn became the unexpected surprise weapon of Black's position! White resigned as there are ideas to pin the knight as well as ...Rc2+. Black played excellently here, using both bishops to play on the queenside, and the c4-pawn became the unexpected surprise weapon of Black's position! White resigned as there are ideas to pin the knight as well as ...Rc2+. Black played excellently here, using both bishops to play on the queenside, and the c4-pawn became the unexpected surprise weapon of Black's position! Weighted Error Value: White=0.47/Black=0.14 (very precise). Weighted Error Value: White=0.36/Black=0.12 (very precise)

**0-1**